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ME NEWS

# accine risks 'not serious as looping cough'

Roper Services Correspondent

benefits of whooping vaccine were said yesterday to outweigh any risks.

ing evidence from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation noted that many symptoms and signs of whooping cough are specific to pertussis. They occurred, for example, in children of similar ages and in those who had not been vaccinated. The committee also noted that the incidence of whooping cough was higher in those who had not been vaccinated than in those who had.

But in administering triple vaccine against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus, the committee said, it was not only recognising the possible risk but also acknowledging the benefits of the vaccine. In such cases, the committee said, the benefits of the vaccine should be weighed against the risks. The committee said that the risk of whooping cough was not serious, but the risk of diphtheria and tetanus was.

A Public Health Service Laboratory study of 80,000 doses of triple vaccine given to children in the North-west Thames region of London had so far shown no evidence of permanent brain damage. In Glasgow, no case of severe brain damage directly attributable to whooping cough vaccine was known between 1961 and 1975. About 180,000 children were immunised.

## ion unlikely on officer guardsman case

Stanhope Correspondent

Army is refusing to accept any suggestion of an officer being given evidence in the case of Guardsman Holdsworth, the 2nd Coldstream Guards.

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The Army declined to name the officer who was called to give evidence. But it has been suggested that he was a young officer from the Guardsman's regiment who did not know Guardsman Holdsworth personally and had been unable to get in touch with Mr Holdsworth's commanding officer before standing court.

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## suggestion that victim had consented

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The public given to the court, the statement said, was that the victim had consented to the sexual intercourse. The statement said that the victim had been in a state of mind to consent to the sexual intercourse.

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# The Queen's tribute to Welsh nationhood

From Esmay Symon, Cardiff

The Queen, at the end of her three-day visit to Wales yesterday, said that she was pleased to have seen the young people of Wales with a significant reference to Wales as a nation.

Earlier the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Gwynn Owen Williams, a pro-devolutionist, referred to the subject in his sermon at the church service at Llandudno Cathedral.

The Queen, thanking the city council for its loyal address, said it had been a pleasure to see the young people of Wales with a significant reference to Wales as a nation.

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# European Assembly Elections Bill Commons could order change from PR to the simple majority system

By Roger Berthoud

The two most striking features of the European Assembly Elections Bill are its provision for proportional representation and the division of England into nine electoral regions. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will each constitute a single electoral region.

As stated in part one of the Bill, 61 representatives shall be elected to the European Assembly. 56 in England, eight in Scotland, four in Wales, and three in Northern Ireland.

Elections will be conducted under a regional list system, each vote being cast for a single, named candidate. The seats to be filled for the region will be allocated according to a system of proportional representation, subject, however, to an important provision.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY			
North East (England)	North West (England)	Yorkshire and the Humber	East of England
West Midlands	East Midlands	London	South East (England)
South West (England)	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland

Form of European elections ballot paper.

THE 12 ELECTORAL REGIONS			
Region	Constituents	Provisional electorate	Seats
North East	Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumbria	1,032,924	5
North West	Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside	2,324,728	7
Yorkshire and the Humber	Humberside, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire	2,324,728	7
East of England	Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk	2,324,728	7
West Midlands	Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands	2,324,728	7
East Midlands	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottingham, Lincolnshire	2,324,728	7
London	Greater London	2,324,728	7
South East	Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Kent, Essex, Sussex	2,324,728	7
South West	Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire	2,324,728	7
Wales	Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda, Glamorgan, Gwent, Monmouthshire	2,324,728	7
Scotland	Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Inverness	2,324,728	7
Northern Ireland	Belfast, Derry, Londonderry, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Down, Antrim	2,324,728	7

These include provision for the nomination of party candidates by a group nomination paper, and for the allocation of seats at an election by means of the "highest average" (d'Hondt) system of proportional representation, named after a Belgian mathematician who devised it.

Notice of election must be published not later than the twenty-fifth day before the date of the election. The statement of persons nominated must be not later than noon on the sixteenth day before the day of the election. Polling should be between 7 am and 10 pm on the day of the election.

Candidates can be nominated either separately or with one or more other candidates on a single nomination paper. Every nomination paper shall state the candidate's full name and address, and the political or other description under which the candidate or candidates wish to contend the election, not exceeding six words long.

# Walthamstow takes Mahler to the Albert Hall in sell-out jubilee programme

By Kenneth Gillingham, Arts Reporter

When Frank Shipway was asked to take over the South West Essex Symphony Orchestra and his assistant conductor at Glyndebourne, not even Sir John Barbirolli and the Hallé Orchestra had succeeded in interesting the people of Walthamstow, London, in serious music.

Concerts had been cancelled for lack of support; and Mr Shipway recalls being asked: "What makes you think you can succeed where Sir John has failed?"

Tomorrow, 14 years and innumerable concerts later, the renamed Forest Philharmonic Society, Frank Shipway conducting, presents a sell-out jubilee performance at the Albert Hall of Mahler's eighth symphony, "The Symphony of a Thousand".



Frank Shipway: Success where Barbirolli failed.

# Parliament given a choice on elections

Continued from page 1

elections, by which every candidate who wins a simple majority is elected.

There need be little doubt that as the electoral pendulum swings, the system might produce a result in which one party (usually the party in opposition when a government becomes unpopular) would sweep the board in European elections, involving 81 seats rather than the 635 Westminster seats.

As most of the Cabinet, and apparently most of the Shadow Cabinet, see it, there could be no democratic defence of circumstances in which the Scottish National Party might win most of the seats in the European Parliament during a good year for the Conservatives. Every sincere Europeanist believes that the United Kingdom delegation should be representative in more ways than one.

That is, the delegations as elected should represent various interest groups such as farming, fishing, industry, law, accountancy and so on, as well as the main political parties. That is why the regional list has its attractions. Each region can nominate men who are specialists in particular subjects, and, no less important, can nominate anti-Europeanists as well as Europeanists.

My impression is that Mr Callaghan and Mr Rees believe that the European elections, although Westminster MPs will be free to stand, will tend to produce candidates quite different from those who are now in the Commons. They will, on the regional list system, tend to represent interest groups, particularly industrial interest groups or professional men such as lawyers and accountants, although much will depend on the surveillance that the squarers exercise over the nomination of the party lists.

I understand that the Conservative Party list for European candidates, much over-subscribed, is being considered this weekend and next week. It is likely to be taken as some assurance that the Conservative Party is fully in the Europeanist business. But there is no hint of any action on the Labour side, presumably because Labour leaders are cautious about a withdrawal from the EEC resolution at the October party conference in Brighton.

# 'No danger' from waste leak at Windscale plant

A further radiation leak was detected at the British Nuclear Fuels installation at Windscale, Cumbria, on Wednesday. The leak was given when a waste package containing a small amount of plutonium was found to be damaged.

The workers immediately left the area, and preliminary measurements suggest that there was no significant plutonium uptake by them. The men have all now returned to normal working, BNF said yesterday. Decontamination operations had been carried out promptly.

Mr Coningsby Alday, the managing director of British Nuclear Fuels, who gave evidence yesterday on the fifth day of the inquiry at Whitehaven, Cumbria, said that any fuel received from Japan for reprocessing would be from a modern reactor, would be properly encapsulated and would bear little risk of discharging excessive amounts of caesium into the Irish Sea.

# er wanted farm sale kept secret, jury are told

Mr Jackson, Broadland Properties, was asked to handle the sale of the 350-acre Ted Farm, near Billings, Essex, was restricted choice of potential buyers was stated yesterday at the Crown Court.

Mr Jackson, the owner, said that the sale was made confidentially, with no one to know, Mr Jennings, a defence lawyer, said that the best way to handle the sale was to keep it confidential, with no one to know, Mr Jennings, a defence lawyer, said that the best way to handle the sale was to keep it confidential, with no one to know.

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# Teacher

The Van der Puttyceum in Eindhoven seeks contact with a teacher biology or integrated science for 11 weekly teaching hours for their English section GCE Stream per 15/8/77 (or soonest thereafter).

We are thinking of a teacher holding an English educational certificate or a teacher with a Dutch educational certificate who speaks the English language fluently.

Applicants should live in Holland or the North of Belgium. Applications to be sent as soon as possible to the Headmaster, C. Berkhout, Dr. Berlagelaan 13, Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Telephone number: 040 - 436004.

## WEST EUROPE

## Mr Vance is briefed on Brezhnev talks at Rambouillet

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, June 24

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, who is in Paris for the two-day ministerial conference of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, had a 50-minute talk this morning with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée Palace.

He told reporters the President had given him some information on his meeting at Rambouillet earlier this week with Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet head of state, which he would send on to President Carter. It seemed to us in the United States," he added, "that it was a very constructive summit."

Asked whether he thought President Giscard d'Estaing might act as go-between for Washington and Moscow because of the deterioration in relations between them, he said that relations between the United States and the Soviet Union are frank, and we are exchanging views on many subjects at all times. We, of course, appreciate the advice and help we get from others from time to time, but our relationship with the Soviet Union are very satisfactory.

At a press conference this evening, Mr Vance referred to areas of disagreement between the two countries, particularly the strategic arms limitation talks, where the two sides were "substantial differences". However, some progress had been made by working out a framework for an agreement at his recent meeting with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Geneva.

On the possibility of a meeting between President Carter and Mr Brezhnev he declined to speculate.

"There are strains at present in our relations with Russia, but a number of areas in which we are working together," Mr Vance added.

"For instance, last week we had very useful discussions in Washington on a comprehensive test ban. In Moscow, we have had talks about arms limitation in the intermediate range, and the possibility of a treaty on chemical warfare is to begin soon. The fact we have differences does not exclude progress in other areas."

Asked about mediation efforts in Rhodesia, Mr Vance insisted the United States was "doing everything within our power to help bring about a peaceful solution there. The problems are very difficult and don't underestimate their complexity. We are sure the British share the same point of view. However, we are going to continue to do what we can to try and help in both the Rhodesian question and Namibia (South-West Africa) as well."

He described the mediation effort as a continuing process on which the British and

American Governments were in daily contact.

Mr Vance said he was going to Peking at the end of August for four or five days and would have several meetings with Chinese leaders. Asked about the possibility of the United States participating in a world conference on arms limitation with Chinese leaders, he replied that there had been no suggestions about such a conference. "We are prepared to discuss arms limitations with anyone at any time, but I do not think there has been a suggestion of such a conference."

The final declaration signed by Mr Brezhnev and President Giscard d'Estaing at Rambouillet on Wednesday expressed the hope that the conditions might soon be at hand to call a world disarmament conference.

Meanwhile, France has continued to assert its defence policy against Mr Brezhnev's criticisms at the summit.

Yesterday, M. Barre, the Prime Minister, maintained that the government's policy was in line with the views of the previous presidents of the Fifth Republic.

Russian suspicions of the "Atlantic drift" of France's military policy are an echo of the attacks directed against the Government by the Communists and the dihard fringe of the Gaullist rassemblement.

President Giscard d'Estaing commented in a press briefing after Rambouillet that the Russians did not appear to perceive clearly that in 1966 General de Gaulle had taken no one but two decisions: to withdraw France from the integrated NATO Command; and to remain in the political Atlantic Alliance.

As a member of the Atlantic alliance, it was natural that talks should take place between France and the United States and those of the alliance on the nature of France's involvement, if any, in a possible European conflict.

The President, referring to the recent conversion of the French Communist Party to the independent French Communist Party, added pointedly: "No French political party at present demands a change in this policy."

M. Barre, speaking before the Foreign Press Association and the Institute for Defense Studies, said a passage in a speech he made last Saturday had been widely interpreted.

In it, he had said that the military policy of France was not that of "all or nothing", but the Government would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons to defend the "approaches" to France's national territory.

M. Barre said yesterday: "That is to say, neighbouring or allied territories, for it is obvious that if all those territories were to fall into the hands of an aggressor, our days would inevitably be numbered."



Mrs Thatcher speaking at the Italian Centre of International Studies in Rome last night.

## Italian plan to give police wider powers

Rome, June 24.—Italy's ruling Christian Democratic Party published plans tonight to give police increased powers of arrest, interrogation and wiretapping to combat extremist violence.

Formal approval of the scheme is expected to be given next week by the Communists and four other political parties.

It will represent the first formal agreement for 30 years between the Christian Democrats and the Communists.

The measures would allow police to detain people who refuse to identify themselves, or who have identified themselves, falsely, or who were planning a serious act of violence. Police could also tap more telephones and question detainees without a defence lawyer or judge being present.

The draft agreement among the parties also included plans to boost the economy and make changes in education and local government.

The agreement came after nearly two months of talks between the parties and represented a modest advance in the influence of the Communist Party, political sources said.

## Moscow seeks closer ties with Madrid

Madrid, June 24.—President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union has sent a good-will message to King Juan Carlos on the occasion of his nation's day, expressing hopes for closer ties between the Soviet Union and Spain.

The message said: "I express the hope that relations between the Soviet Union and Spain in various fields undergo new development based on the principles of peaceful coexistence of the peoples of our countries and strengthening of European and international security."

Spain and the Soviet Union re-established diplomatic relations last February.

To commemorate his patron saint's day, King Juan Carlos was to entertain leaders of Spanish political parties, the Government, diplomatic corps and military officers at a gala reception today.—Reuters and AP.

## 13 soldiers injured

Stuttgart, June 24.—Thirteen soldiers were injured, four seriously, when a helicopter of the United States Air Force crashed while landing at an American airfield here.

The helicopter was carrying 13 soldiers and a pilot. The crash occurred during a routine landing exercise.

The injured soldiers are being treated in German hospitals. The pilot was not injured.

The crash occurred at the American Airfield in Stuttgart. The helicopter was a UH-1H Huey.

The accident is the first of its kind in the history of the American Airfield in Stuttgart.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

The injured soldiers are being treated in German hospitals. The pilot was not injured.

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## OVERSEAS

## OAU leader calls for defence force to resist 'aggression' by southern African governments

Libreville, June 24.—Black African countries were today urged to set up their own combined defence force by Mr William Eteki Mbonimpa, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Such a defence force could intervene against aggression from white-ruled southern Africa, he told the OAU ministerial council at its meeting here in the Gabon capital, Libreville.

Mozambique had already been the victim of such aggression, which also threatened the other four "front-line" African states, he said.

"Most serious consideration should be given to the necessity and the urgency of considering a mechanism which would permit the mobilisation without delay of a collective intervention force in cases of aggression against an African country," Mr Eteki said.

Referring to the recent renewal of violence in southern Africa, Mr Eteki urged the nationalist movements operating

there to "show restraint" in their efforts, expressing the hope for "a more militant and more effective engagement on the ground."

Mr Eteki has suggested an African defence force, in the past with little response from OAU members. But the situation in Africa has changed since then.

The council is making preparations for an OAU summit due to start here on July 2, and when the agenda was discussed today, Mozambique added an extra clause calling for a political and diplomatic initiative to isolate Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and to assist Mozambique.

Mr Peter Oni, the OAU spokesman, suggested the question of the defence force put forward by Mr Eteki might be discussed when the plenary session of the council tackles the Mozambique clause later today or tomorrow.

Senegal and Algeria inserted

a general topic for the council to consider, the "problem of intervention in the internal affairs of member States and the violation of the principle of the charter and resolutions of the OAU."

Intervention from outside was also at the heart of remarks made by Vice-President Ngoua Karth-Hond of Zaïre, who said the involvement of a super-power, neighbouring states and "a Caribbean island where they smoke cigars" in the invasion of Shaba province earlier this year.

Zaïre has accused the Soviet Union, Angola and Cuba of involvement in the invasion, which was pushed back with the help of troops from Morocco.

Morocco, which swung away from the OAU summit last year after withdrawing from all OAU activities in February, was there today to hear Zaïre express gratitude for its intervention.

## US ban on export of computer to Russia

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, June 24

The United States has prohibited the export to the Soviet Union of a sophisticated computer which the Commerce Department considers could be used for military purposes as well as weather forecasting, its ostensible intended purpose.

The computer, known as Cyber 76, is made by Control Data Corporation of Minneapolis, and the order was worth \$13m (about £7.6m). The manufacturer said it was considering an appeal against the decision.

The Commerce Department acted after President Carter and 65 Congressmen expressed concern. The same model computer is reported to be used in the control centres of the Pentagon, the Air Defence Command and the National Security Council.

Other American as well as British computers have been sold to the Soviet Union and China, principally for the oil industry. In each case, the purchasers had to give assurances that the computers would be used for civilian purposes only.

However, in the case of the Cyber 76 system, which is more powerful than any computer known to the Soviet Union, the assurances of diversion to military or strategic uses is of serious concern, the Commerce Department said.

## Another cut made in Carter aid proposals

From Fred Emery

Washington, June 24

A further bite was taken out of President Carter's Foreign Aid Bill last night by an increasingly unruly House of Representatives, which at the last minute reduced by 5 per cent the \$7,000m (\$4,190m) Bill—already less than the Administration's original request.

The Republican proposing the cut, Mr Clarence Miller, had no idea that his annual attempt would pass, and only six minutes of debate, devoted to it. To general surprise, it was approved 214-168.

The Bill now goes to the Senate which is expected to throw out most of the House changes. Thus the final content of the Bill is unpredictable.

White House spokesmen are angry at the success of a new

coalition of right-wing Republicans and some call new and stronger Democrats. This shifting coalition has imposed what seem impossible conditions on United States contributions to multilateral lending institutions, by making the American funds many not be used to give aid to unacceptable countries such as Cuba, Mozambique, Angola and Vietnam.

An earlier attempt to kill the proposed funds for the Lance missile-neutron warhead failed on a 10-10 tie vote in the appropriations sub-committee, after a debate in secret session.

The purported reason is that such weapons violate human rights standards.

There were complaints from Mr Carter's supporters that he had not fought hard enough for the Bill.

The new shell would be fired from 155mm and 8-inch howitzers. According to the Post, the shells are designed for their maximum lethal effect on humans, rather than for destroying structures.

The new weapons are known as "enhanced radiation warheads" because of the production of the pinch version are buried in a public works Bill now before the Senate.

## MPs arrive in Belgrade to campaign for Soviet Jews

From Our Correspondent

Belgrade, June 24

Belgrade, June 24.—A British, French and Belgian arrived here today to urge that the issue of Soviet Jews be placed on the agenda of the Helsinki agreement review conference.

Diplomats from 35 nations have failed to agree on an agenda after a week of talks in Geneva. The MPs, including Mr Greville Janner (Labour, Leicester, West), and Mr Ivan Lawrence (Conservative, Burton), were due to meet their respective delegations later to urge consideration of

## Inquiry into allegations of Israeli torture urged

From Our Correspondent

Paris, June 24

Paris, June 24.—Dr. Fathi Arakat, the president of the Palestinian Red Crescent, said in Paris today that an article in The Sunday Times alleging Israeli torture of Arabs had reinforced the case for an international commission of inquiry.

Dr Arakat said the World Health Organisation had urged to send a commission to the West Bank of the Jordan, to inquire into health and medical standards, but Palestinian

had been refused by the Israel Government.

Dr Arakat is the brother of Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He was speaking to reporters after visiting French hospitals with members of the Red Crescent medical organisation.

He said he would continue to co-operate with the Israeli Government in the West Bank area when it contravenes the Geneva Convention, he said. He wanted teams of doctors to visit Lebanon to study conditions there.—Reuters.

## Austrian asylum taken up by Czech dissident

From Our Correspondent

Vienna, June 24

A third signatory of the Czechoslovak Charter 77 on human rights has arrived in Vienna to take up an Austrian offer of political asylum.

Dr Jaroslav Krejci travelled with his wife and a child from Ostrava. He said that he was tired to talk to the press.

Dr Krejci, who is 46, is a professor of philosophy and is expected to take up a similar post at the University of Vienna in the autumn. He follows Mr Zdenek Mlynar and Mr Jan Plesch, teachers from Ostrava, who arrived in Vienna within the past month.

Mr Mlynar is considered to be the most important of the Charter 77 signatories in Czechoslovakia until now. He was a former member of the Czechoslovak central committee during the Dubcek regime.

He said that his main reason for leaving on Wednesday last week was that life and work in Czechoslovakia had been made impossible for him.

## 10,000 cutback in whale kill quotas

From Our Correspondent

Canberra, June 24

The International Whaling Commission today announced a 35 per cent reduction in kill quotas for next year.

At its annual meeting in Canberra, the 16-member commission reduced the quota for all whale species by more than 10,000, saving a total of 17,839 whales from the North Atlantic, North Pacific and Southern Hemisphere.

The five-day meeting, which ended tonight, was marked by acrimony as the two main whaling nations—Japan and the Soviet Union—began to argue about the 75 per cent cut in whale catches—fought proposals for a 10-year moratorium on all commercial whaling and large-scale reductions in the kill quotas.

They also fought against a substantial reduction in the quotas of sperm whales in the North Pacific, here both countries conduct big commercial whaling operations. Japanese and Soviet delegates strongly attacked the proposal, eventually approved, which reduces the

North Pacific sperm whale quota from 7,200 to 753 for the time being.

Under the new quota, no male sperm whale will be slaughtered and only 753 females will be permitted to die.

The commission's scientific committee recommended a big cut because of a sharp fall in the sperm whale population. The commission, in its customary, said the decision would be reviewed at a special meeting of the scientific committee in London.

One delegate told reporters that the new North Pacific kill quota "could result in the summer whaling operations of the Soviet and Japanese fleets in the area becoming uneconomical."

Observers from international conservation groups, at the meeting, said the new quotas were probably the best result that could have been expected. But they were apprehensive about the November meeting in London, particularly as government-appointed scientists would be represented. They claimed

## Wife of Soviet dissident to be questioned by KGB

From Our Correspondent

Moscow, June 24

The wife of Dr Yuri Orlov, "detained dissident leader," said today that she had been summoned for questioning next week by Soviet security police, the KGB.

Mrs Irina Orlov said she had been ordered to report on Monday morning to the KGB's Lubianka headquarters for questioning "as a witness" in the case of her husband.

Dr Orlov, head of the dissident "Helsinki" monitoring group, was seized by police in February soon after being attacked with fellow-dissident Alexander Ginzburg, in the weekly Literaturny Gazeta.

Although Mrs Orlov has been told that her husband "committed a crime," the Soviet authorities have yet to reveal the charges.

John Macdonald, a British lawyer, has offered to defend Dr Orlov, but was refused an entry visa to the Soviet Union last month. Exiled dissidents have since staged a defence hearing for Dr Orlov, to publicise his case.

Dr Orlov helped in May last year to found the Helsinki group, which aims at scrutinising Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki agreement.—Reuters.

## Purge of Chiang Ching supporters goes on

From Our Correspondent

Peking, June 24

The party and the provincial revolutionary committee, as well as being the political commissar of the Shenyang military region.

Reports that Mr Mao Yuan-hsin had been killed when he was tried to arrest him have not been officially confirmed.

Under the headline "Bury the gang of four and bring down the Liaoing tyrant (Mao Yuan-hsin)," the People's Daily disclosed today that a campaign was under way to eradicating the "gang of four" and their "fanatic followers" in Liaoing. This refers to Mr Mao Yuan-hsin, Mao Yuan-hsin's nephew.

He held important posts in the party and the provincial revolutionary committee, as well as being the political commissar of the Shenyang military region.

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# On the edge of the nest

by V. S. Pritchett

Love, whether happy or unhappy is a real calamity if you give yourself up wholly to it. You wait! I don't suppose you know yet how those delicate hands can torture you with what tender solicitude they can tear your heart to pieces. You will find out how much blazing hatred is hidden beneath the most ardent love. . . . You will find out what it means to belong to a petticoat, what it means to be enslaved, to be infected and how shameful and weary such slavery is.

The words spoken by Rakitin in Turgenev's play *A Month in the Country* are often held to express the bitterness Turgenev sometimes felt in the course of his life-long passion for the famous opera singer Pauline Viardot. He fell in love with her when at the age of 25 he heard her sing at her triumph in Petersburg in 1843. She was three years younger than himself.

At this time he was known simply as a minor poet, a handsome giant and aristocrat without achievement, a wit, a philanderer whose only misresses had been peasants on the estates of his terrifying and despotic mother. Pauline was already an achieved artist, admired in Europe. She came of a hard-working, ambitious musical family who had advanced from Seville to Paris in her father's time. There she was educated. She was plain to the point of ugliness but her voice recalled the voice of her famous elder sister, La Malibran, now dead. Pauline's voice had, said Musset, the same resonance, the same audacious Spanish *canto de gaiter*, but schooled far beyond the harsh spontaneity of Andalusian singing. Although Turgenev may have responded to something of his mother's appearance and dominant character in her, he was enchanted by Pauline's vivacity and above all her intellect. She was a quick linguist—they spoke and wrote in French or German to each other—she was married and the mother of a child. Her husband, Louis Viardot, was French, the son of a judge, and a writer of books on painting.

There was nothing reckless in this marriage, even though Pauline's husband was in his forties, 21 years older than herself: she respected him, she relied on him absolutely, but was not in love. The curious and sensible marriage had been arranged by George Sand, who had known the Garcias and Louis Viardot for years; and it can be said, at any rate, to have satisfied George Sand's ruling maternal passion. More than once, after her own unhappy marriage, she had been attracted to young women, and in the young Pauline she saw a girl whose independence as an artist of growing powers would need protection from the dangerous temptations and illusions from which she herself had suffered in her own early scandalous days.

In middle age, however, George Sand's motives were never quite simple: her jealousy was aroused when she heard Musset, one of her own disastrous and discarded lovers, was courting the girl who, luckily, was disgusted by his drinking and his libertine life; but that would still leave her open to folly. George Sand worshipped the artist in Pauline and indeed was using her as a model for the ideal artist-heroine of her longest and most famous novel, *Consuelo*. Pauline always said that the portrait perfectly described what she herself was like and wished morally to be, although the wild adventures of the book were romantic inventions.

Louis Viardot might be thought a comic middle-aged figure: he was short, he had a large nose which was a gift to caricaturists, he looked as if he were going to tip over; people found him dull, inclined to fuss and a pedant. In one of his *Prose Poems*, "The Egoist", Turgenev is thought to have portrayed him as the imperious right-thinking man. Louis was a decent man of principle. If public opinion in France or, indeed abroad, was to be considered—he shared the republican and anti-clerical opinions of George Sand and particularly of Leroux, the Radical politician who had been her lover; but Pauline's mind was in her art. She knew Louis lacked the engaging child-like qualities: if she did not love him she respected him and, with the utmost dignity and consideration, she loved her deeply. She had never loved anyone except her father and, perhaps in Louis, she saw a father reborn. It was noticed that she often called him "Papa".

Turgenev went night after night to hear the singer. He pushed into his friends' boxes—he couldn't afford one of his own—and he shouted his ad-



miration. His gentleness and shyness vanished as his shrill voice streamed, his mad behaviour was the joke of the season. There is nothing like the sight of a giant who is out of his mind. There was no performance without it. People told Pauline that the noisy ass with the long chestnut hair was a young landowner, a good shot and a feeble poet. The young singer had the pretty tactics of fame at her finger tips: an admirer who was far richer than Turgenev had given her a huge headpiece which was spread on the floor of her dressing-room and there she sat like an idol and four of her admirers were allowed the privilege of sitting at a proper distance on the paws. It was a long time before Turgenev was allowed to join her privileged admirers in her dressing-room and with his right to a paw. Once there, the quick, serious charm, the wit and his power of telling and acting amusing untrue stories came back to him. His French and German were perfect. But surrounded as she was by more important admirers, Pauline took little notice of him.

Turgenev had to be content to contribute on Louis Viardot who, while himself, was often pushed into the background and, in the classic fashion of such triangular beginnings, it was the men who became friends. First, writing his books on travel and on art, managing the opera company and Pauline's career, seeing to it that she would indeed be by another Malibran, developing her distinct personality and style—these were the lasting preoccupations of Louis Viardot's busy life. But once business was over, he saw in Turgenev a flattering aspiring writer with whom he had a decisive taste in common. Louis Viardot was a sportsman. He loved shooting birds in and out of season. As Pauline once said, he loved slaughter. The sportsman of Spasskoye and of Courtauvell, in France, converted medieval chateau and estate, had a subject less strenuous than a love of music.

And there was more than that. The man of forty and the young man of twenty-five had other things in common. Pauline's Spanish spell had also caught Louis. He had written a book on Spain and had translated *Don Quixote*—not very well, they say. There was also a bond of politics: the two men were republicans and democrats. Viardot was even thought to be politically dubious by the Russian secret police. The pair were at one in their hatred of serfdom. Louis was much taken by the clever young man and saw he could be comical and useful. He saw that Pauline could clinch her popular success by singing a few Russian songs and that Turgenev was the man to teach her something of the language. They all met for this useful purpose, in the Viardot's apartment in Petersburg.

Pauline herself was captivated by the mixture of Oriental barbarity and polish in Court Society in Petersburg, where everyone spoke French. She was persuaded to sing some Spanish gypsy songs to Russian gypsies: both parties were convinced that Russia and Spain had far more in common than they had with western Europeans, and in this their instinct was right. It is an irony that Turgenev, the Westerner who

believed the future of Russia lay in learning from Europe, should have been brought to his one great and lasting passion by what looks like an atavism: her Spanishness had its Islamic roots: his own, remote though they might be, had something of this too. The Andalusian wit and feeling that underlay her French upbringing responded to his lazy, open Russianness. There was more than the buried image of his frightening mother in Pauline.

After three seasons in Petersburg, the Viardots returned to France, and Turgenev had so charmed Louis and his wife that they invited him to stay as long as he liked at Courtauvell. In his letters to Pauline when she was abroad singing, or when he was travelling in Germany during the next seven years, there are signs that she returned his feelings: there are ecstatic passages in German that suggest passionate friendship; whether they became lovers is uncertain. We know that, for their generation German was the language of high platonic feeling. One may be reading the language of chivalry and courtly love: there is a great deal of hand-kissing, but almost no sensuality. But the situation close to *A Month in the Country* is established: Viardot knew his wife needed the excited admiration the theatre provides and himself looked on like some tolerant father who admires the talents of both parties. Was he deceived? We do not know, but in 1852 there is a postscript in German to one of Turgenev's letters:

"What is the matter with Viardot? Is he upset because I am living here?"

In that year Turgenev's mother—who held the purse strings—called him back to Russia. She was dying in her house at Spasskoye. Wretchedly he obeyed, vowing to return to Courtauvell. Louis Viardot advised him to see to the huge estate he would inherit; Pauline urged him to pursue his talents. Young love was over. Wretchedly, lonely, he returned to his work, forced to do so for he was sentenced to exile at his house in Spasskoye because of a political indiscretion.

For a year or so her few known letters to him were tender; in one, either in Andalusian merriment or perhaps at his request, she encloses clippings from her finger nails and tells him how she had rearranged the furniture in her little salon. He replies that he wishes he were the carpet under her feet and sends her a lock of hair. He watches and advises on her career from a distance, writes that bitter comedy, then a *Sportsman's Sketches* and starts on his famous novels.

Once released from his exile, he goes back many times, but briefly, to Courtauvell where he finds—when she is not on her operatic tours—a dutifully married woman with four children and an artist absorbed in her profession. (There is one strange bond: Louis and Pauline have gladly taken in Turgenev's illegitimate daughter, Paulinette, a child he had had by a peasant woman. A bond, but a spiv in the camp and an exasperation.) For years Turgenev is no more than a dear family friend, a godfather who enchants Pauline's

daughters, and as enslaved as he had been by his mother. At 40 he is deep in melancholy, in love with his hopeless love of Pauline and, mocked by his Russian friends for banging his head against a brick wall. And he himself says he is only happy when a woman has her foot upon his neck.

By the winter, a younger generation of radical critics had grown up in Russia who sneered at a novel like *Fathers and Sons* and mocked him for always finding himself in "Calypso's life". Tolstoy paid him: Dostoevsky derided him. Suddenly everything changed.

In these, the gloomiest days of his life, surprising news revived his hopes. Pauline Viardot had decided to give her last performances in the great opera houses of London and Paris: she had her last triumphs in Dublin and Paris, but she knew her voice had lost its highest quality. The voice that had ruled as if it were a separate being inside her, began to lose its range. Drastic with others, the perfectionist had enslaved and over-trained her voice and coming of a long-headed family with an austere tradition of musical discipline, she was not going to expose herself to flaccid.

The Viardots decided to give up Courtauvell and let the house in Paris. Louis Viardot had often been alone there, playing "mother" to the children. He fumed with hatred of Napoleon III, his politics and his morals and wanted to get out of France. The couple settled on Baden-Baden as the ideal place for a semi-retirement in which she could give occasional performances when she wished and turn to composition and rich pupils.

In choosing Baden-Baden the Viardots showed their acumen. Pauline had commanded a kingdom of huge, applauding audiences; now she needed a small court in a place where the elite and fashionable settled and where she would be a principality. The Germans had been adept at preserving princelings, grand dukes and margraves who combined the overfed bourgeois flush with the elegance of royal society and ease. The Rhineland was the country of the *Schloss* with its stately medieval appeal to the middle-class century; a spa ministered to the most exclusive of diseases: gout, rheumatism, paralysis and the stone. A few miles across the Rhine from Strasbourg and twenty-three miles up the Rhine from Lahr, the old main line from Oetend, and Erpsel, Baden-Baden had become Europe's and especially the Parisian's summer resort, a Monte Carlo without need of a Mediterranean. It had its *Schloss*, indeed it had two. Famous statesmen, great artists in music, the theatre and painting found the season at Baden-Baden indispensable to their health and amusement.

It was a pretty town, adroitly placed where nature was a seductive mixture of mountain, forest, decorous waterfalls and streams. Beyond the little valley that climbed gently from the orchards of the Rhineland and the hills where the vineyards stood in peaceful regiments, were the tall plates of the Black Forest: in the sheltered avenues, willows and firs, all neatly labelled as in a botanist's paradise. The scene was graceful, in-

structive and soothing to the indulgent sentiments of middle age. The cakes were rich and creamy, the wines light and tender. The little river Oos, running through the gardens from the hills was packed with trout, the mountain lakes (to German fancy, with water sprites. The fountains played, the statues offered their antique suggestions. In the summer and early autumn evenings a *flac* gave the scene the sweet wilfulness and contentment of a Victorian painting. At appropriate hours one lay in the baths of ionised minerals, drank the water at a Kurhaus or sat in long rows listening to the orchestra, paraded to see who had arrived and filled into the gambling tables. Whiskered officers pranced on their horses. Ladies and grooms galloped down the Allee. The age of uniforms, clinking spurs and the crinoline had come! Turgenev described it all perfectly in *Smoke*, the novel that ruined his reputation in Russia for a long time.

If by now Turgenev was almost ignored by Pauline, he was often in correspondence with Louis Viardot who received money for the education and pension of Paulinette, his daughter, and also about translations. He was helping Viardot to translate *Onegin* into French when he heard of the move to Baden and made this the excuse for a visit. The meeting between the one time lovers was short and difficult. But by 1863 the embarrassment had receded sufficiently for him to be allowed to take a flat in the Schillerstrasse, not far from the Viardots' house.

Some biographers think that Pauline's softening towards Turgenev was unscrupulous and one does detect here and there in

his work that he knew he was being used. She was proposing to publish several albums of Russian songs and she needed the support of his famous name. His figure would be indispensable to her salon. In *The Price of Genius*, April Fitzgibbon more sympathetically suggests that now Pauline had given up the great opera houses, she had time for family life and the emotions she had been obliged to subdue as an artist. She certainly knew at once when she saw Turgenev in Baden and needed him that she could dominate him absolutely whenever she wished. She wanted a small theatre. Turgenev was rich and was soon building one of those steep-roofed Louis XIII style houses for himself, planning its large gardens and building a theatre for her in the grounds.

Why, after all his sufferings, did he return to the Viardots and accept, finally as it turned out, the life of an expert? The empty nest? At Spasskoye knew him now only as an occasional visitor. Was it only because, as he sometimes said, mad others said quite seriously too, that Pauline's extraordinary eyes had hypnotized him? Did he inevitably submit to the will of others? She had obviously imposed her will on her husband. Of course, Turgenev loved family life by proxy. Her children were growing up and he loved children, although his own daughter hated him. One does not imagine that Pauline was a woman to forget a wrong, or that she would accept any criticism of her own behaviour. She had a tongue and in the Spanish way cherished a jealousy. There is one scene, of which almost nothing is known, which may have been important. He had brought his daughter Paulinette for a visit to Baden and Paulinette made

a violent attack on Pauline in that way to shy away especially from women of their own class. It is noticeable that in the long separations from Pauline his talent reached his greatest powers; yet what may have been his spiritual love for her was certainly a marriage as its most exacting.

There had been many amiable *amoureu* in his life and one or two more were to come, for (as he told the Goncourts), "my life has been saturated with femininity". His finest love stories—*First Love* the affair in *Smoke* (which he wrote in Baden) and *Torrents of Spring*, show carnal love to be irresistible but corrupting and destructive of honour; on that he is particularly sensitive. Still, when the Goncourts asked him how he felt after the sexual act he said:

"I enter into communication with things around me. Objects take on a reality they had lacked a moment before. Yes what happens to me is that relations between Nature and myself are restored."

The Viardots returned to Paris after the war of 1870-and, except for a few triumphant visits to Russia, Turgenev was with them, on "the edge of another man's nest", until he died at the age of 65 in 1885. Louis Viardot had died a few months earlier.

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This extract is taken from *The Gentle Barbarian* by V. S. Pritchett, published by Chatto & Windus at £5.95. It will be reviewed on Monday by Sir William Haley.

Below  
Ivan Turgenev  
and facin  
him th  
young an  
not-so-youn  
Pauline Viardot









## Gardening

## A little of what you fancy

In the past I have expressed concern about the tendency for seed breeders here and abroad to concentrate on producing dwarf strains of many flowers. It is particularly noticeable with plants grown in large quantities in pots for sending to market. The growers want squat, stubby plants almost as broad as they are tall so that they can pack as many as possible into the market crates. But in my opinion they are ruining some of our most popular plants.

The modern varieties of *Primula polyanthus* are "dumpy" plants; all the graceful, of the varieties I knew when I was a lad in the seed trade has been bred out. So too with cinerarias and various other plants. But I am even more concerned with the trend towards dwarfism in such bedding plants as asters, subshrubs, heliopsis, marigolds, busy lizzies, cornflowers and many others.

I accept, of course, that there are many small gardens where small plants are appropriate; there are millions of tubs,

window boxes, and patio gardens and dwarf plants are just right for them. But there are still many large gardens where large plants are needed to fill large spaces. Also many people are not able or willing to apply all the manure, fertilizer, and water necessary to optimum growth.

Now this is not as a rule all that serious with normal sized plants, but we may end up with half-sized specimens of plants that would be only quarter-sized plants at their best.

I would, however, like to draw a distinction between man-made dwarfs—obtained by hybridization, or painstaking selection and nature's real miniatures. Many miniature roses are exquisite, none more so than the pale pink Cecilie Brunner. Its blooms are of the classic rose shape in bud and open to a fully double flower about two inches across. If it is lightly pruned it will make a small bush but just now the wall of my old barn nearly 20 feet high is

a sheet of pink almost as wide with the flowers of this charming rose which is almost 100 years old.

Then miniature daffodils—*Narcissus asturiensis* (formerly *N. minor*) and *N. cyclamineus* and *N. juncifolius* are delightful. So too are the cyclamen species—*C. neapolitanum*, *C. coum* and the rest. The bulbous iris—*Iris reticulata* varieties, *I. histrioides* major and *I. danfordiae* give me enormous pleasure in the early months of the year and while we have large flowered snowdrops such as *Galanthus elwesii* I am more than happy with the common old *G. nividus*. The double form I do not find very amusing.

With tulips, too, some of the loveliest are the small species such as *Tulipa tarda*, yellow and white, *T. pulchella violacea*, *T. uramensis*, *T. clusiana*, the lady tulip with white flowers flushed red. I have always been very fond of all tulips and I wish I had the time to specialize in them and perhaps breed some fine new varieties.

I have always greatly enjoyed all the small bulbs—partly because they flower so early in the year, partly because some, like the all-naturalized and increase and above all because they are in the main so beautifully proportioned.

There is a place certainly for the fat large flowered so-called Dutch crocuses in public parks or even in, say, a large circle in the middle of a large lawn. I remember when, between the wars, one of the London newspapers, the *Daily Mail* or the *Evening News*, I think, gave a quarter of a million crocus bulbs to be planted in Hyde Park. My father decided to plant them in the grass that separated the East Carriage Road and Park Lane. Almost every park employee was drafted to the job and superb was the display in the ensuing years. Sadly they disappeared in the changes that took place after the war.

But as with other bulbous genera the small species such as *C. chrysanthus* and its varie-

ties "E.A. Bowles" rich yellow with a bronzed base, "Ladykiller" purple edged with white, "Snowflunting" white, deep purple and yellow—all these are charming.

Now to something mundane, but highly useful if you have a water butt as thousands of our readers have. It is a little unit called the Raintrapper and prevents water butts from overflowing. Normally you arrange that a down pipe from a gutter directs the rainwater into the butt. When it is full, of course, it overflows and can be a nuisance, causing damage to the foundations of the house or flooding borders.

The Raintrapper is fitted into the down pipe and into the butt. Any handyman can do this in 30 minutes. When the butt is full the down flow is channelled back into the down pipe and away into the house drainage system.

I fitted one recently to a plastic butt and it works perfectly—don't ask me how or why. All I can tell you is what

the makers say. "The design of the Raintrapper is such that it takes advantage of the fact that falling water spirals down the inside of a pipe. Inside the unit is a gallery which picks up this spiralling flow and directs the water along the branch pipe into the butt."

An overflow regulator, ensures that once the butt is filled to the level of the branch pipe, all further flow is channelled back into the house drainage system. A sealing cap is provided so that the butt can be removed for cleaning or any other purpose. And the drainage system of the house functions normally.

The Raintrapper may be fitted to the normal 2½ inch diameter pvc rainwater pipe as detailed in BS 4576 Part 1 1970. It may be obtained price £2.20 including VAT, postage and packing from Intrend Products, 40 Church Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6BA.

Roy Hay

## Radio

## Bottom of the class

My remarks about the jubilee edition of *RADIO BURPS* provoked the man responsible for it, Alan Melville, to write me a letter. It was a very nice letter, a perfect model for the author addressing the critic who has just savaged him; it was friendly, light of touch, disarming—unmistakably the work of a man genuinely wishing to be informed of the nature of his offence with a view to doing better next time. In spite of that, my opinion is a bit for at the root of the matter is a very different people. And funny and no one ever made much headway with that discussion. At the same time, the letter had a very pleasant effect. For I set, as the last time I looked at someone else's work, I risked that her faithfulness should become known. So legend of the virtuous, enduring wife is cynically invented as a device to make expectation a conceit. Admitted as I am the jubilee edition of *RADIO BURPS* I thought I ought to try and say why.

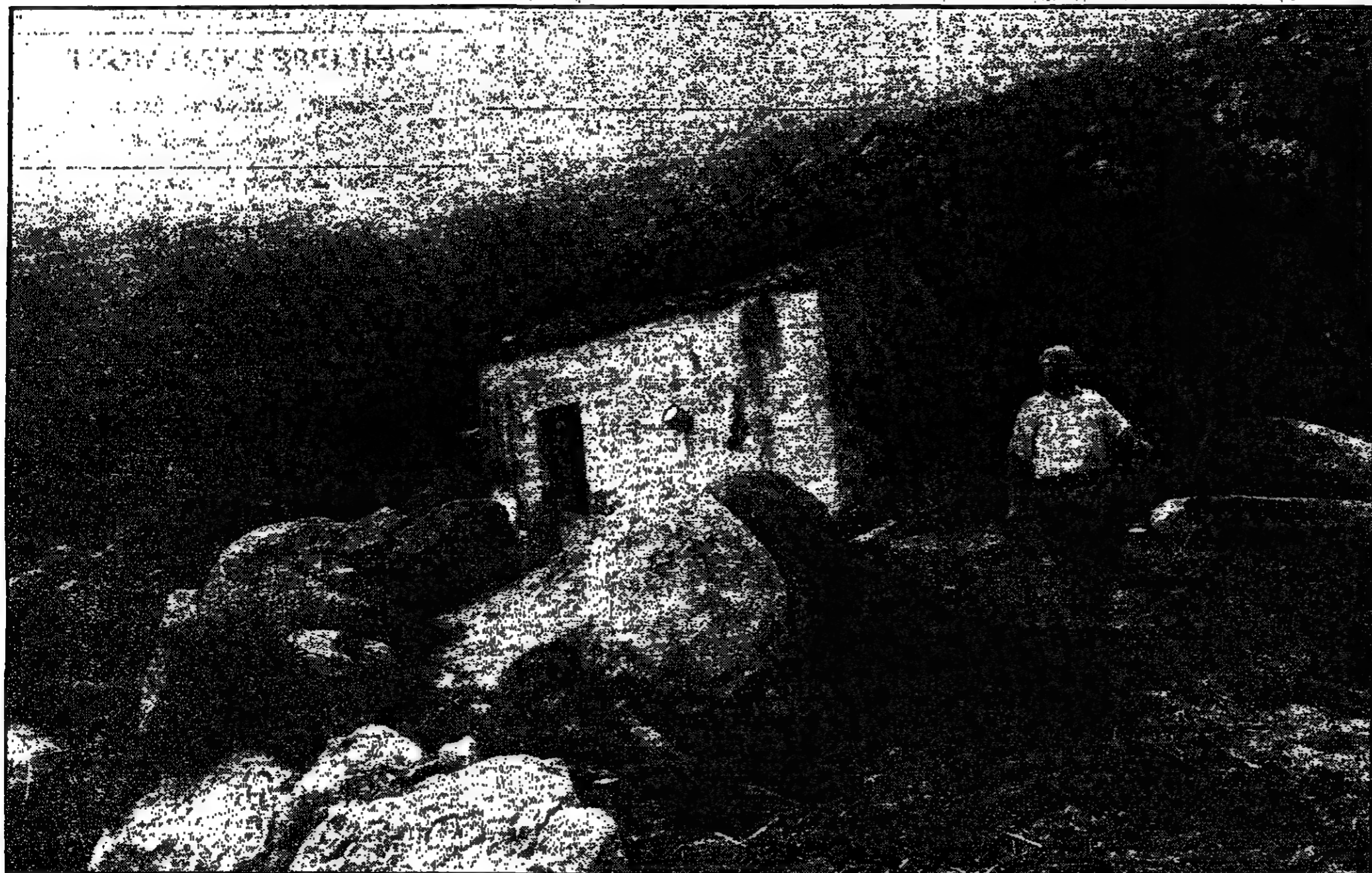
To begin with, there's that title: *RADIO BURPS*. Certainly the show has been repeating at tea-time of a Friday afternoon, but that I think was not the intended message nor the one I got. I was reminded of those faintly humorous schoolboy jokes so cruelly cunningly to the grown-ups; of noisy indignation arising from a misreading of a schoolboy's notes; and the kind of thing in short the title's implications are quite ghastly, but—upon whom—were they actually provide a pretty accurate forecast of what the show contains. Representative of the last two numbers have been a take-off of something or another in the droll manner of Gilbert and Sullivan, a bit of sub-Coward on the state of the nation, a Wodehouse of the kind of key. "I loathe it," said with feeling. "Piped must you will be appalled by a necessarily surprised to hear has found its way into the operating theatre where it is related that on one occasion just as the patient was under the hand struck up 'M. Heart-Stop Still'."

Last Wednesday also brought a dramatized historical feature of radio-plant material, John Peel's *The Glorious English*. It was preceded by an example of why the radio talk ought not to be a threatened species. *Chinatown* Frederic Raphael offered a short course in Hollywood "Chinese" or what really means when some sound executive says to you "Paraphrase it, I thought it was a very interesting script." It means I down your pen and turn something else.

David Ward

## Travel

## The isle of isolation



The sleek white yacht moored near the entrance to the marina belongs to the Aga Khan. It is reputed to be the fastest ocean-going yacht and is berthed near his Sardinian villa in case he decides to speed away by sea as a change from travelling by helicopter to pick up the private jet that stands waiting at nearby Olbia Airport.

Through the consortium he heads, the Aga Khan over the past decade has made one of the "largest" contributions, in both financial investment and area, to tourist development in Europe.

Closely by his own yacht, in the huge marina (485 berths) that was opened last year, are other fast and luxurious vessels that have brought their rich owners to this playground, where they can enjoy a less crowded and not so urbanized South of France atmosphere.

Sardinia's industrial and agricultural areas are mainly inland, for the simple and historic reason that most of the population have retreated to the centre of the island in the

face of repeated invasions over the centuries.

Unlike most other island resorts, the Sardinians have had surprisingly little enthusiasm for the surrounding sea, either as fishermen or as mariners.

The island's beautifully rugged and rocky coastline has thus remained undeveloped until recent years. It is the holiday industry rather than any other that is now concerned with its development—and the most notable area of expansion is the Costa Smeralda. Since its inception, the Aga Khan's consortium has poured millions of pounds into a 35-mile stretch of the north-east coast.

Three large luxury hotels, an adjacent village, a tennis club and golf course, secluded private villas and the new marina at Porto Cervo form the main part of their investment. Some of the earlier buildings round the village centre are now acquiring a graceful maturity.

This is the quiet holiday refuge of the so-called international jet set. It was no surprise to me, therefore, when I

literally bumped into Mr James Bond one evening in the Cala di Volpe Hotel. I had just left the bar—in what I was told had been part of the Aga Khan's original homestead—content with an after-dinner brandy. As I rounded a corner of the corridor, I collided with Mr Bond who, as appears to be his custom, had unexpectedly entered from a side door. We each apologized: Mr Bond bade me good night and continued his pursuit either of seclusion, or, perhaps, like me an after-dinner drink.

Much of the concept of the Costa Smeralda development is to provide facilities for a relaxed respite from pressures of one sort or another. Standing on the terrace of the nearby Hotel Pitrone—another of the trio of luxury hotels—Giulio Gentile, marketing director for the group, told me: "It's a question of providing complete isolation."

Here the main hotel block is virtually a clubhouse with a dining room, bar and lounge, where a discreetly placed ensemble plays quietly through the evening. Guests are accommodated in appropriately luxurious self-contained villas almost hidden among the trees and foliage of the grounds. On one of the dining tables I noticed a bottle of pills for someone's heart condition. "You see how well we look after our guests," said Giulio. I could not resist the unworthy thought that the unfortunate guest might need them when he was handed his bill.

Tranquillity and seclusion are two outstanding qualities that Sardinia offers regardless of the size of the holidaymaker's wallet. The concept of small villas in the hotel grounds from which guests commute to the main block for necessary eating and drinking is a fairly usual one in Sardinia and is not confined to the luxury bracket. Several of the smaller, less expensive, privately owned hotels are similarly designed, and there are many villas in the area available for self-catering

holidays with the same attractive qualities.

Some of the latter are at Palau, also on the emerald coast, only two minutes by car or five minutes walk from the still quiet but rapidly developing town. As these are privately-owned villas, the quality of the furnishings and fittings varies accordingly, but standards are high.

A few kilometres up the coast to Port Rafael, where more villas for renting are available in an attractive development built around a village square. Here there are shops, the tiny church of Santa Rita, and Henry's Bar where there are usually customers who will willingly help out with language difficulties. Some of the villas are owned by expatriate Britons, of whom there is a small colony here.

The simplest, and cheapest, accommodation in the area is in a development at Rena Maggiore, where villas, bungalows and studios of varying sizes have been built with a small shopping centre which

includes a supermarket, petrol station with mouth-watering confections, and reasonably priced restaurants. The beach, however, is a five minute walk away—or further for the more secluded accommodations.

Palau is the nearest town about four kilometres away and the bus service is infrequent. A car is particularly useful here as it would be elsewhere in the area if full advantage is to be taken of the breathtaking scenery of the island.

Hire charges vary from about £82 a week according to size of car, although some operators have secured much cheaper rates for their clients in certain places. Alternatively, mopeds and bicycles can also be hired weekly or daily. Some inclusive fly-drive holidays are also available.

Information about Sardinia is available from the Italian State Tourist Office, 201 Regent Street, London W1.

Cyril Bainbridge

## Drink

## A dash of something special

Beaujolais would certainly have been the first choice for any picnic meal requiring a red wine until the rise in prices, made it more of a special occasion drink. But the fruity freshness of a young Beaujolais is ideal with plates, creamy cheeses, meat pies. Findlater Mackie Todd have a 1976 Beaujolais of their own bottling which, lightly chilled, goes down very easily—this is Beaujolais as delicious and "moreish" as it ought to be, and a half costs £1.25.

Findlater Mackie also have half flasks (47½ cl) of Chianti, the 1974 of G. Magni. This firm, in Poggibonsi, are makers of both very fine wines and excellent everyday ones; this Chianti Vecchio, in a wicker bottle, which will cushion it against the shocks of car boot, bicycle basket or back pack, has the underlying slight "prickle" of Italian-style Chianti and a firm, clean flavour. Again, this size, almost a half litre, is quite enough for two on the road, or enough for three who may have also

had an aperitif (£1.50 from Findlater Mackie Todd, 92 Wigmore Street, W1).

As this is the season when many parties will be organized for general social purposes or good causes, an inexpensive wine, likely to be in demand. Unless the occasion is a barbecue or specifically wine and cheese party requiring a red wine, I think that something white will have the widest appeal. Pink wines, albeit pleasant with light price ranges, are swamped by salad dishes, eggs and cold cuts that are spiced or accompanied by mustard or pickles.

SPAR, whose 1,600 licensed branches are holding a wine festival from June 20 have several special offers, and I commend their Italian Vino Bianco, fullish in style, with the sort of bouquet that pleases experienced and novice drinker alike—the Trebbiano grape, the base of many low-priced Italian wines, is quick to appeal and easy to enjoy. (£1.20 the bottle,

£2.45 for the "Jumbo" 1½ litre size. If you do not know where to buy from a SPAR outlet, contact their headquarters at 42-40 Houndstone Drive, Wexham, Harrow, Middlesex.)

The sort of food that is likely to be served at these large-scale lunches and suppers is exactly suited to Italian wines. André Simon have their own Bonafino Bianco (and a Rosso) which is a little more delicate than the SPAR Bianco, but quite definite in character. (£2.15 for 1½ litres, £2.80 for 2 litres.) Both these wines are crisp enough for the drinker who truly enjoys a dry drink, but their fruitiness will please those who prefer a wine where the acidity is not pronounced. They also have a "plus" in that the bottles have screw-tops—speeding service, but I would recommend that unless powers are really experienced, the contents of large bottles are decanted into jugs or carafes so as to avoid the risk of spills.

Information about Sardinia is available from the Italian State Tourist Office, 201 Regent Street, London W1.

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Pamela Vandyke Price

## Bridge Working backwards

"Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end and then stop." This is the motto of the *Working Backwards* book by Cyril Bainbridge. It is a book about the way in which you can work backwards from the end of a game to the beginning. It is a book about the way in which you can work backwards from the end of a game to the beginning.

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Edward Maye

## How to get more tomatoes this year

Treat your tomatoes the easy way with Betalpal, a fine value-for-money product from Synchemicals.

Betalpal is the setting solution that can make sure every flower yields fruit, whatever the weather. Try the Betalpal treatment on this year's tomatoes, just as you would the last few flowers open. It's very economical in use. Simply spray it once on each fruit, as the fruit appears, and you can look forward to more tomatoes on every tree.

With Betalpal you can make sure that all your care and attention doesn't go to waste, and you can count on each plant yielding more fruit.

The tomato treatment. From Synchemicals. Synchemicals Ltd. (Dept 18), Grange Walk, London SE13EN







New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

# THE ARGUMENT OF NUMBERS

...picketing at Grunwick... on its present basis... is likely to get killed... several ways in which... could happen; indeed there... several ways in which it... happened already. Some... fall under the wheels... bus or of another vehicle... could be killed by a... bottle, somebody could be... over and break their... the major violence that... from time to time, the... of the crowd are unpre-... and dangerous.

The crowd itself does not... or even largely of... people. There are, how-... some people among the... who are spoiling for a... the arrival of the bus... a battle every morning... narrow streets by the... round station provide a... arena for the struggle... like a football match... an aggressive minority... in a large crowd.

It is happening at Grun-... as, however, nothing to do... picketing. The pur-... lawful picketing is that... in reasonable numbers... be free to persuade... of the merits of their... in Grunwick the numbers... and seem to be grow-... and there is no ques-... of persuasion here. The... purpose of these... is to over-awe and in-... If the police were not... then the Grunwick... who want to continue... which they clearly have a... do, would be unable to

get into their factory. They... would be stopped by force... numbers and by physical refusal... to let them pass.

In order to get the bus in the... police have to push back the... who are at that moment... pushing forwards. If the pickets... continue to grow in numbers... may reach the point where the... police can only get the bus in... by clearing and closing the roads... for some way around the fac-... tory. As they push the pickets... back in order to clear the way... the police inevitably become in-... volved in direct physical con-... tact, and that inevitably leads... to fights between the pickets... and the police.

The attempt to put the blame... for these fights on the police... is mere propaganda. If the... pickets were not present in such... large numbers, and were not try-... ing to intimidate the Grunwick... workers, the police would not... need to be present. The situation... is brought about by aggressive... large-scale picketing and is likely... to continue to get worse so long... as large-scale picketing con-... tinues. Already the pickets num-... ber the workers in the fac-... tory by ten-to-one or more.

Because what is happening is... physically so dangerous, so likely... to lead to some grave injury or... to death—and it has already led... to serious injury—it should be... brought to an end as quickly as... possible. The first step that... needs to be taken is for the... numbers of pickets to be greatly... reduced and for only a small... number of authorized pickets to... be allowed to enter the factory... gates. Mr. Grantham is taking the... right line about this, but he is... not being supported and even... the numbers he wants are in fact

too large for the narrow streets... around the factory.

The trade union movement... and the Labour Party should take... the matter very seriously, not... only because of the physical... danger or the threat it poses to... the right of the Grunwick workers... to continue to work if they wish... but also because it is very... bad for the reputation of the... trade unions. Right after night... the people of Britain are seeing... the struggles between the pickets... and the police. They know that... if the pickets were not there the... police would not be there, and... they cannot therefore be per-... suaded that it is the police... who are to blame. They see the... menace which such mass-picket-... ing inevitably represents to the... people who want to go on work-... ing. They see the threat of in-... security. This has shocked the... British public and it has been... particularly shocking to women.

Unless the trade unions are... able to develop a code of practice... for pickets there will have to be... a new and clearer law on picketing... The theoretical basis of the... present law is one of peaceful... picketing and peaceful persua-... sion. Nothing of the kind... either is happening or by the... nature of the situation could... happen at Grunwick. At Grunwick... the picketing is not a form of... peaceful persuasion. It is a form... of exercise of power. Neither the... language nor the conduct of Mr... Scargill or Mr. McGahey is that... of peaceful persuasion; they use... the argument of superior force... Unless the trade unions can en-... force limited and peaceful rules... of picketing the Government will... have to do so. The right to work... has to be defended against the... threat of mere numbers.

# S THATCHER WARMS TO EUROPE

...Maggie Thatcher has never seemed... nally committed to... She has loyalty con-... the European policies of... edecorator, and there has... no reason to doubt her... belief in them, but... have never engaged her... or entered the central... of her preoccupations. She... seen primarily a British... concerned with gaining... in Britain. In so far as she... wider concerns they have... mainly to the threat from... view. Union.

Her speech in Rome yester-... modified this impression... ringing call for European... and a deeper commitment... own party to this cause... re the European party in... British Parliament and... the British people; and... nt to cooperate whole-... ly with our partners in... venture." The driving... behind her remarks still... to be concerned about the... threat rather than pro-... interest in the European... its own sake, but the... is to convey the impres-... sion she is now ready to... herself more deeply in... of European values, with... lar emphasis on trying to... more cooperation among... European parties of the... kind the right.

Then there is the complex and... divisive question of the electoral... system. The Bill is a paral-... lementary curiosity in offering the... Commons a choice between two... systems—proportional representa-... tion based on regional lists, or... the existing simple majority... system for Britain combined with... the single transferable vote... system which already exists in... Northern Ireland. The Govern-... ment is recommending the list... system, having been pushed... towards it by the Liberals, and... perhaps also by fears that the... Conservatives might do some-

what better with the simple... majority system. Many Con-... servatives agree with this last... point and also oppose propor-... tional representation because... they see it as the thin end of... a wedge that will eventually... melt the electoral system of Britain... thereby greatly increasing the... power of the Liberals. Mrs... Thatcher herself believes that... this could create an almost... permanent Lib-Lab coalition and... keep the Conservatives out for a... very long time.

There are at least four answers... to her fears, and to those of... colleagues tempted to opt for the... simple majority. In the first... place proportional representation... in Britain would not necessarily... have the results they fear. Secondly, proportional repre-... sentation for Europe does not... necessarily lead to propor-... tional representation for Britain... Thirdly, proportional representa-... tion for the European elections... is undoubtedly the better and... the fairer of the systems... offered; for reasons which... are now fairly familiar... among them that otherwise the... Liberals would be denied any... representation at all in Europe... Fourthly, it is doubtful whether... the Bill could be passed in time... if there were first a long wrangle... over which system to adopt, and... then lengthy procedures involv-... ing the Boundary Commission... before the new European consti-... tuencies could be formed.

It is therefore to be hoped that... Mrs Thatcher's enthusiasm for a... new European reorganisation will... enable her to lift her party's... eyes above the tactical tempta-... tions which confront it and carry... it to the decisions that will best... support the values which she... wants Europe to defend. As she... said in Rome, "This is a great... work, and it cannot be carried... out by timid minds."

...prices... Professor Asher Winegarten... Douglas Jay in his letter... on the Common Agri-... Policy mechanism... argue... true that world prices... ain foods were not normally... an EEC prices, there would... need for any of the CAP... barriers."

...not know that not only the... of American agricultural... s such as the USA, Aus-... and Argentina, support agri-... in varying degrees. Prac-... tical countries do so as part... food, as well as agricultural... Few countries risk the... one of "world" prices... are often the result of the... effects of national support... rather than, as Mr Jay... genuine free market forces... US Administration pro-... believe in agricultural free... it, it maintained a complex... of guaranteed prices and... restrictions. For cereals, a... in the emphasis of US sup-... ply from stockpiling to... payments has made it... of American and Russian... an though stocks in private... have somewhat increased... the situation could quickly... again. It is thus imperative... EEC to rely on its own pro-... cessibility.

...ay says high prices have... consumption and therefore... country's real living stan-... in Germany, Japan, and... consumers traditionally... ad to pay relatively high... for food; it has not pre-... these countries from achiev-... id economic growth. Despite... od, we have been able to... s industrial invest-... id productivity and in living... Ms Jay looks for econo-

mic recovery by returning to... of lower-priced food and... raw materials and by restraint... of manufactured goods. I... suggest that a major reason for the... better record of our industrial... competitors may have been their... lesser dependence on food imports... and lesser vulnerability to the... vicissitudes of the world market... We can no longer, as we could... before World War II, dictate the... terms upon which other countries... sell us food.

...Mr Jay's calculations on the effect... of the CAP on our balance of pay-... ments are misleadingly based on... the average prices of certain foods... currently available in certain... countries. In fact they should be... based on the true long-run cost of... the margin of delivering to Europe... the bulk of its food needs.

Yours faithfully,  
ASHER WINEGARTEN,  
Deputy Director General,  
National Farmers' Union,  
Agriculture House,  
Knightsbridge, SW1.  
June 17.

Lot 2422  
From Professor D. M. White  
Sir, You print today (June 17) an... article by your Sales Room Cor-... respondent concerning the new attri-... bution of Lot 2422 of Sotheby's auction... of the contents of Mentmore... Towers. While not wishing to com-... ment on whether or not the painting... is a Vas Loo or a Pragonard, I... would suggest that the subject now... averred is still wide of the mark... The mythology of some depicted... is not "The Toilet of Venus"... "The Toilet of Psyche". The... female figure, with her eyes cast... down, standing on the left, is surely... that of the Arcadian nymph Callisto... an unfortunate companion of the... moon-goddess Artemis (Diana), who

# Conflict at Grunwick: pickets and the law

From Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, MP for Epsom and Ewell (Conservative)

Sir, In 1974 the present Government introduced and Parliament enacted that it shall be lawful for one or more to attend at or near a place where another person works for the purpose only (my italics) of peacefully obtaining or communicating information or peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working. The law affording persons the liberty so to behave has been substantially the same for 300 years.

How on earth can the behaviour of the persons attending outside Grunwick come within that law? Who can seriously assert that five hundred or more are needed in order to peacefully persuade the Grunwick workers? By what right may hundreds assemble and howl insults and surge on to the road-way? Who are the people marshalling, organising, and addressing the crowd? Shall it be the demonstrable purpose of the persons outside Grunwick is a concerted major act of intimidation to prevent others doing what they wish to do out of fear, or are the persons marshalling authorities doing about it? If there is evidence that some persons are deliberately organising others to commit offences and the prosecuting authorities fail to act against them we are witnessing the rule of the mob over the rule of law.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RAWLINSON,  
House of Commons.  
June 24.

From Colonel Sir Eric St Johnston

Sir, Other than the scenes portrayed on television screens and reports in the Press, I know nothing of the way in which the police are handling the Grunwick dispute, but in order that everyone should know where the police stand in disputes of this nature will you please allow me as a retired police officer, to set out quite simply what is the task of the police.

There are three principles:

1. The police must not take sides in any industrial dispute.
2. The police must ensure that anyone who does not want to work need not do so.
3. The police must ensure that anyone who does want to work will be able to enter the place of his or her employment without let or hindrance.

The first two of these principles are easy to achieve. It is the third that is the crux of the problem.

One cannot stop strikers and their associates shouting abuse at those who wish to work, but it is the duty of the police to ensure that people trying to enter the place of employment are not pished, punched, spat on or in any other way assailed or intimidated by pickets or by anyone else.

To this end the police must maintain an adequate, wide, free road-way at the entrance to the place of work and if pickets or their associates attempt to close the gap they must be prevented by as much police force as is necessary.

It is imperative that all responsible members of the public, especially our political rulers, should give every support to the police in the difficult, unpleasant and indeed dangerous job that they are trying to do, to ensure that the rule of law is paramount and time save democracy for all of us.

We must not have another Salisburys when we have another the forces of law and order.

Yours, etc.  
ERIC ST JOHNSTON, formerly HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary,  
Old Swan House,  
Great Riccarton,  
Gloucestershire.

From Mr F. C. Kemerley

Sir, Mr Grantham (June 23) argues that "no society can exist in a healthy state with any company having the right to persistently and continually dismiss people who espouse causes which are civil rights of a trade union. He will undoubtedly strive to achieve his

# Court of Appeal decision in guardsman case

From Mr Hugh Fraser, MP for Stafford and Stone (Conservative)

Sir, As the sole Tory signatory of Colonel Marcus Lipton's prayers for the removal of the three judges, I am sure that the House of Lords will not be long in deciding that I am neither a renegade nor left wing, nor pro-pickets.

Of course the three Appeal judges are faced with a difficult decision. I am sure they will not discharge the rigidity of the law on sentencing of young persons, was unhelpful, and accept, recalling what Greek I have, that all judgment is literally critical. Nevertheless on two counts the judges' decision seems to me and to many to have been grotesquely wrong.

First as a Court of Appeal the judges failed to study Army law or Army practice. They failed to consider that the Army is not a common law institution, but a discipline of law and order. They failed to consider that the Army is not a common law institution, but a discipline of law and order.

The second count is simpler. It is nothing to do with Lord Hale's emotive use of "feminism" or "national dishonour" or "national disgrace" or "national dishonour" or "national disgrace". It concerns the competence of the Court of Appeal to interfere with the decision of a court-martial. It is not a matter of law, but a matter of military discipline. It is not a matter of law, but a matter of military discipline.

Section 11 (3) of the Army Act, 1955 provides: "Except in pursuance of a sentence of a court-martial, a soldier of the regular forces shall not be discharged unless his discharge has been authorised by the competent military authority or by authority direct from Her Majesty; and in any case the discharge of a soldier shall be carried out in accordance with Queen's Regulations." The relevant paragraph (9.408) of Queen's Regulations, 1975, in its turn provides: "The competent authority for the discharge of a soldier is the brigade commander or, in the case of a soldier sentenced to imprisonment (including a suspended sentence) ... it is to be discharged unless in the opinion of the competent authority it is in the interests of the Service." That affords no guarantee for a future Army career.

Manifestly, no ensign is in a position to inform any court as to the decision of the Army on a question of discharge of a soldier, and that for two simple reasons. He has not the legal competence; neither has he the knowledge as to how the Army will be made.

The question of whether or not a suspended sentence "counts" or not is a matter governed by military law, part statutory and part by Queen's Regulations contained in Queen's Regulations. The Court cannot be "inaccurately informed" about the law of the land, of which military law forms part; see *Burdett v Abbott* (1821). The 401, per Sir J. Maule, C.J. The curious thing is that there is no reference to the Army Act, s. 11 (3), or to Queen's Regulations, 1975, para 9.408, in the judgments of the Court of Appeal, the full, but unreviewed, transcript

...Jubilee in Mount Abu... From Mrs D. A. Wordsworth

Sir, I am not an Old Quid Hai, as the diminishing band of senior officers still living in this country are affectionately known, having come here almost inadvertently for the first time in 1963, and as I now live in this remote corner of Rajasthan am far outside the range of official celebrations whether Silver Jubilee or Golden. I am not aware of my fellow subject of the Queen within hundreds of miles of this place.

The BBC World Service and your own reserved approach to the Great Day (incidentally it may interest you to know that your April edition punctually reaches this far-flung outpost on the third day after publication) had begun to make me feel very much an outcast when a purely fortuitous timing changed all that. Last night (June 7) I celebrated the 25 years of Her Majesty's reign in a perhaps bizarre but memorable way.

It happened like this. I try to grow crops on these few hill acres but because the land is located at the edge of a wildlife sanctuary—though a little more there are many things and this year I have laboured into the investment of enclosing three small fields in a five-foot dry stone wall to be topped by three feet of barbed wire, considered locally as adequate protection against sambar deer, our chief foe. The work started five or six weeks ago and proved to be so great a task that it was decided to have a party on the day it should finish, in gratitude to the men and women who had laboured so long under the clarity of this broiling summer sun.

Such a party necessitates a feast, in sacrifice to the deity of the banyan tree burning out of a huge rock in one corner of this new enclosure, and the culminating point was last night. No one had worked it out that the final stone, triggering the party, should be placed on June 7, for nobody had myself known of its special significance; but I tied red, white and blue ribbons round the neck of my pye-dog and

# Letters to the Editor

rightful aim to establish his union in the Grunwick work force and no doubt, as soon as possible there after to create a closed shop. He will then force the management to persistently and continually dismiss people who exercise their basic civil right of not joining a trade union. A very healthy state indeed!

Yours faithfully,  
F. C. KEMERLEY,  
31 Eastbrook Road,  
Blackheath, SE3.

From Mr John Kenworthy-Browne

Sir, One aspect of the Grunwick dispute has, I think, not yet been aired, namely the actual work they do. For some time my own photographs and transparencies have been sent to their factory. The results are of a high professional standard that compares very favourably with that done elsewhere, and even at present deliveries are always prompt. I have reason to be grateful for their efficient service.

Whatever may be the pros and cons of union membership, consumers will surely be reassured to hear that the union is concerned over maintaining high standards as well as in imposing its will in wages and hours.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KENWORTHY-BROWNE,  
12 Hollywood Road, SW10.

From Mrs Margaret Chater

Sir, I have been watching on TV the scenes of violence on the picket line outside the Grunwick laboratories. A notable feature is the ease with which policemen's helmets are knocked off.

Would it not be possible, both in the interests of efficiency and of the safety of the public, to provide them with more suitable headgear when on duty on such occasions?

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET CHATER,  
Widow,  
Poynton, Cheshire,  
Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

From Major-General B. Daunt

Sir, So, according to the Registrar of Criminal Appeals (letter of June 20), had the responsible information given by the young officer been accurate, the Appeal Judges decision would have been reasonable. British law, being largely based on precedent, often judges by what has happened in the past.

Yours faithfully,  
B. DAUNT,  
Blackstone House,  
Surrey,  
Wallingford, Oxon.

From Mrs Caroline Woodroffe

Sir, We would like to congratulate The Times on the responsible way in which it has handled the matter on and full reporting of the Holdsworth case. We view with grave concern the tendency of some members of the judiciary to consider crimes of violence against women, when involving sexual elements, with great leniency, than crimes of violence against men.

In placing greater value on the possible career prospects of a violent selfish and callous young man than on the career prospects and emotional well-being of his victim and by underestimating the repercussions in further crimes of this sort and the legal precedent thus set, Mr Justice Wain has done a great disservice to the women of this country. It is most regrettable that offenders can now be defended on the grounds of their innocent victim's consent that they can in future also avoid the reckoning by claiming blighted career hopes?

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE WOODROFFE,  
Chairman, Brook Advisory Centre,  
233 Tottenham Court Road, W1.

From Professor N. Kurti, FRs

Sir, I am surprised that misinformation of the Court was given, as the reason for the recent Appeal judgment in the guardsman case. Is it right for the Courts to enable or even to encourage the Army to send to Northern Ireland a soldier, whose seeming absence of self control could have disastrous consequences in that situation? Fortunately, the Army has shown the right attitude.

Yours faithfully,  
N. KURTI,  
38 Blandford Avenue,  
Oxford.

From Mr David Mallon

Sir, I heard today the first cuckoo of this year. Is this a record for Outer Mongolia?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MALLON,  
Department of Foreign Languages,  
Mongolian State University,  
Ulan Bator,  
Mongolia.  
June 4.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

### Larger of Reyrolle-Clarke Chapman bids to confusion in power industry

Both companies said: "On balance this very much lines up with the market capitalisation of the two companies."

With Reyrolle Parsons' shares down 3p at 186p yesterday its capitalisation is £24.9m. At 84p, down 3p, the stock market capitalisation of Clarke Chapman is £26.5m.

The profits split, though, for 1976 is heavily weighted in favour of Reyrolle Parsons which earned £15.8m before tax against Clarke Chapman's profit of £3.1m.

However, the uncertainties surrounding Reyrolle's future are far greater than those affecting Clarke Chapman and if Clarke Chapman's dividend was paid to shareholders of the combined group with the 10 per cent statutory dividend which Sir James said the group had intended to pay this year, Reyrolle's shareholders would receive an increase in income of around 32 per cent.

Sir James said that since he joined the board of Reyrolle three years ago, he had seen tremendous possibilities for joint activities between the two companies. Talks had begun seriously last year, and had gone into detail about 10 days ago, before the unions had demanded the National Enterprise Board should have control of any new turbine generator company formed from C. A. Parsons and GEC.

"If all had gone normally", Sir James said, "we would have waited until the reorganisation of the turbine and boiler-making industries was out of the way but it dragged on and on."

He said it was still the aim of both companies of the merger group to support a restructuring of both the turbine and boiler-making businesses on the lines suggested by the report of the Central Policy Review Staff.

"The idea is that Babcock & Wilcox and Clarke Chapman should have a stake in the company with the National Enterprise Board where no one is in the majority but Babcock & Wilcox is bigger than Clarke Chapman. This plan still looks good and I see no reason why it should be changed."

After the merger the combined group would have sales of around £400m, of these around £40m would come from boilers supplied for power generation, equal to about 20 per cent of Clarke Chapman's turnover, with £60m coming from Reyrolle Parsons' turbine generators, and accounting for more like third of its turnover.

Clarke Chapman has work for its boiler-making interests for two or three years and is not expected to gain from Drax B. Reyrolle needs the Drax B order to be immediately to save off 1,600 redundancies.

Reyrolle was thus in a weak position to fight off the demands of Sir Arnold Weinstock at GEC, who insisted on running a combined group.

The merger gives Reyrolle the strength, on the worst development, to go it alone, but Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, may now have the chance to go back to the Cabinet with a new scheme to give the Drax order to Reyrolle Parsons, as part of a merged group, and leave the turbine side of the CPRS report on the shelf.

But Sir James said yesterday: "I sincerely hope there could still be an agreement on GEC. If Sir Arnold continues to insist on management control it could be difficult, but I hope there might be a compromise solution."

The combined group is to be headed by Sir James with five directors from each company.

Documents are expected from N. M. Rothschild, merchant bankers acting for Clarke Chapman, and Schroder Wagg, acting for Reyrolle Parsons, next month. Mr Ken Tennant, a spokesman for the Boiler-makers Society at Parsons, said yesterday: "My first reaction is that it cannot do us any harm."

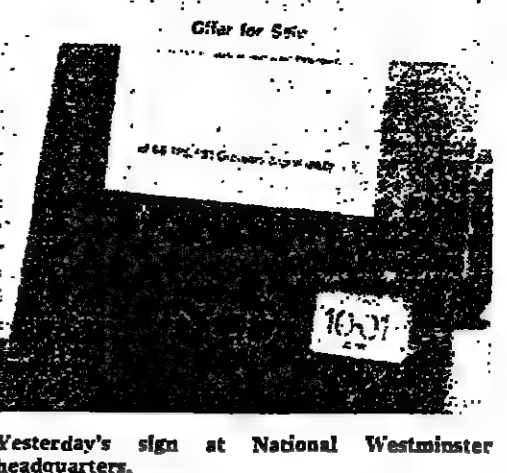
Mr Tennant said that the unions would be meeting management to discuss the merger. Shop stewards would be seeking assurances on the future of workers due to be made redundant on August 5.

### Government sale of BP shares oversubscribed

The huge task of counting applications for the BP share offer started yesterday as the Bank of England confirmed that the Government's offer of £543m-worth of its shares in BP had been oversubscribed. Applications lists were opened at 10 am yesterday and closed one minute later.

The basis of allotment of the shares—a difficult and politically sensitive problem—will be announced at 3 pm on Monday when dealings in BP shares on the Stock Exchange will be halted for half an hour. Then the Stock Exchange will keep its trading floor open for an extra two hours for dealers in oil shares to cope with the rush of deals expected once investors know how their applications have fared.

Estimates are that about £900m has poured into the Bank of England and the four big banks acting as collecting agents. This suggests the whole offer of 66,700,000 shares has been oversubscribed four or five times and 25 per cent of the shares are expected to be withdrawn for sale in America.



Yesterday's sign at National Westminster headquarters.

### Crédit Suisse shareholders hear story of losses at Chiasso branch

From Peter Norman  
Bern, June 24

Shareholders of Crédit Suisse were told today that the bank hopes to be able to pay an unchanged dividend of 80 Swiss francs per bearer share for this year despite the heavy losses likely to arise from the activities of its branch in Chiasso.

For the 3,099 shareholders who filed into a specially hired exhibition hall in the Zurich suburb of Oerlikon this was about the only good news that Herr Oswald Aepli, chairman of Crédit Suisse, had to report about the affair.

He recounted to the day's extraordinary general meeting a sorry history of criminal activities and inadequate controls which have helped to make the Crédit Suisse's losses the most serious banking scandal in Switzerland since the Second World War, if not in living memory.

As expected Herr Aepli was unable to give the assembled shareholders a clear indication of the losses that the bank will sustain through the improper channelling of fiduciary funds by the Chiasso management through the Liechtenstein based holding company, Texon Finanzsuisse AG.

Clients' funds worth 2,170m francs (about £500m), almost all of which were guaranteed by the Chiasso branch, were channelled outside the Crédit Suisse to acquire companies, mainly in Italy, and for operating loans to affiliated companies of Texon.

The Chiasso branch also bypassed the balance sheet in issuing additional guarantees totalling 350m Swiss francs to Italian banks for lire denominated operating loans to Texon holdings.

Herr Aepli disclosed that Crédit Suisse has been obliged to assume the debt obligations for the client funds received by Texon and in the process has progressively become Texon's sole provider of funds and principal creditor.

He put the bank's claim against Texon at 1,700 Swiss francs. This sum is rather lower than the 2,170m francs of clients' funds channelled through the company because of repayments from easily redeemable assets held by Texon and income received in the meantime.

To cover the bank's claim against Texon the Liechtenstein company's entire assets have been pledged to Crédit Suisse. Texon's balance sheet values the assets at 1,750m Swiss francs, but Herr Aepli gave warning that at this level they are "undoubtedly overvalued."

The risk of loss to Crédit Suisse depends on the actual value of these pledged assets, and Herr Aepli told the meeting that Texon appears not just to be an empty shell but to possess substantial assets.

However, Crédit Suisse will not be able to put a figure on its loss until these assets are realised. This could take a considerable time as Herr Aepli disclosed that it did not intend to sell the Texon holdings in undue haste. That would be detrimental to shareholders' interests.

Herr Aepli interrupted the reading of his 47-page-long speech for Herr Peter Schmidheiny, a member of the Swiss board, to read an even longer report by the special commission of inquiry set up by the board in May to investigate the Chiasso losses.

The commission's report found that criminal responsibility for the bank's losses did not extend beyond the Chiasso law firm of Maspoli and Nosseda where three partners were on the board of Texon, and the top management at the Crédit Suisse's Chiasso branch headed by Herr Ernst Kührmer.

Criminal activity did not extend to the head office of Crédit Suisse in Zurich and Texon had never been a Crédit Suisse subsidiary. On the other hand the report found that certain members of the Crédit Suisse top management had been negligent.

It goes some way to explaining the resignations from the general management in May of its president, Herr Heinz Wuffli and deputy general manager, M. Serge Demieville and the decision at that time of the former president Herr Felix

Schulthess to renounce the title of honorary chairman of Crédit Suisse conferred on him earlier this year by the bank's annual shareholders meeting.

It found that Herr Schulthess "should have taken more resolute action" after he and a colleague had been warned in 1976 by the top management of the rival Union Bank of Switzerland about irregularities by Herr Kührmer.

Herr Wuffli, who was appointed president on April 1 after a "brilliant career, marked by rapid advancement", was, the report said, "not always very fortunate in dealing with people and many of those with whom he came into contact were vexed by his self confidence and, at times, intolerance of ideas put forward by others."

This trait, characteristic to him, may have also contributed to the fact that he did not take sufficient notice of the warning signals.

The report found that M. Demieville, while having a great flair for organising, suffered from the handicap that "ensuring order and supervision in the business operations and departments in his sphere of competence was not his forte."

Furthermore, it turns out that M. Demieville who had been responsible for Chiasso only from April 1, 1976, resigned "because of another matter which led to a lack of confidence."

On the principal actor in the affair, Herr Kührmer the report is vaguer. According to Herr Aepli, the Crédit Suisse management is still "groping in the dark" as to the psychological background that led a diligent and trusted branch manager to misdirect funds on such a scale since the foundation of Texon in 1961.

Herr Aepli disclosed that Crédit Suisse will institute proceedings against Herr Kührmer and his collaborators in the Chiasso branch.

As the meeting broke up after nearly five and a half hours to the strains of *And Long Live*, Herr Aepli's face was creased with smiles.

### Companies see new opportunities expand markets and products

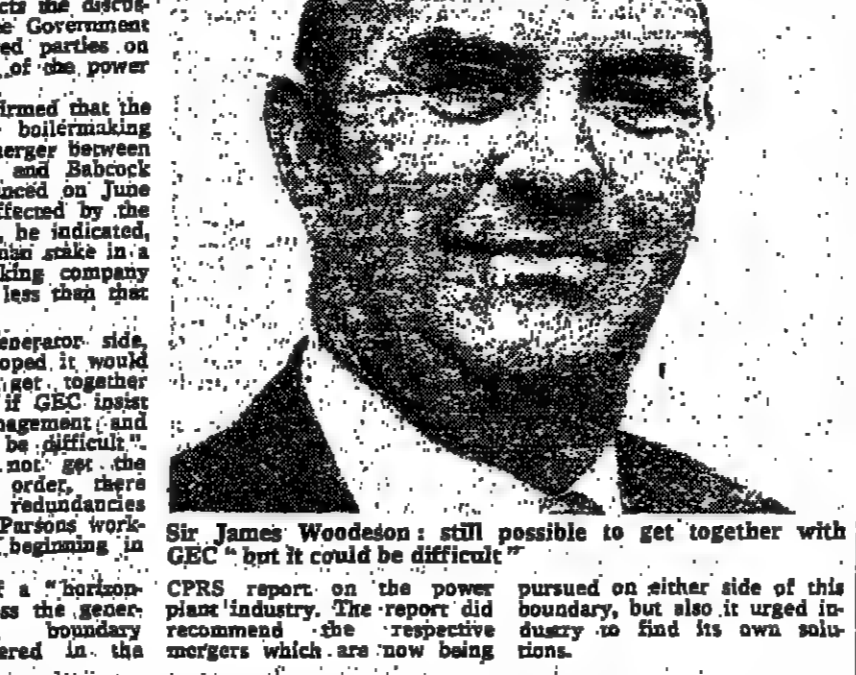
John Owen, chairman of the proposed new company, said that the proposed merger was logical because Chapman's business was electrical engineering and Reyrolle Parsons' electrical engineering. He said that the two companies had substantial overseas markets and products.

He said that the proposed merger would have a wide range of products and technical fields. The overall base would provide a platform for expanding markets and products.

He said that the new company would have the financial and technical resources which would be effective in a large comprehensive contract, particularly in the power generation industry.

He said that the proposed merger would be a logical step in the development of the power generation industry.

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Sir James Woodson: still possible to get together with GEC "but it could be difficult"

### Whitehall sees proposal as normal commercial agreement

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### Japanese to it TV exports

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### Appeal to Lord Ryder on Leyland retooling

Leaders of the machine tool industry have warned Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, that further delay in placing orders for Leyland Cars modernization and expansion programme would "inevitably suck in machine tool imports."

In a frank and at times sharp meeting they insisted they could not continue to "suffer" the production capacity for Leyland cars promised more than nine months ago. Orders worth more than £40m had been processed and could be released immediately.

The deputation was jointly led by Mr Bill Vaughan, President of the Machine Tool Trades Association, and Mr Anthony Frodham, chairman of the machine tool industry's National Economic Development Committee and director-general of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

A member of the deputation said last night: "We got little comfort from Lord Ryder. He gave us a résumé of Leyland's troubles and suggested that we keep in touch with each other. A Leyland Cars spokesman said last night that the company expected to place orders for between £40m and £50m by the end of the year."

### Sums agreed for state takeovers

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Compensation terms have been agreed with two companies due to be vested in British Shipbuilders next week.

Shareholders in Robb Caledon, the Scottish east coast shipbuilders, and John G. Kincaid, the marine engine builders, will receive nearly £2m for the nationalisation of their companies on terms announced by Mr Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday.

These ordinary shares in Robb Caledon and Kincaid's cumulative preference shares were the only ones among 26 other companies due to be nationalized on July 1 to have a Stock Exchange listing in the six months to the end of February 1974. This is the reference period being used by the Government in determining the level of compensation.

Mr Kaufman said the Government would pay £1,364,432 on the Robb Caledon ordinary shares at a price of 33.333p a share and a further £225,000 on the company's 10 per cent cumulative redeemable preference shares.

In the case of Kincaid, shareholders would receive £1,137,394 for the 4.2 per cent cumulative preference shares at a price of 33.33p a share.

The compensation will be payable from July 1, vesting day for the state corporation. It will take the form of government stock and the Bank of England will shortly announce the particulars of the stock and the date of issue.

Negotiations with the other companies, however, are expected to be protracted since most of them are either unquoted or formed part of bigger groups with interests outside shipbuilding.

In some cases, if there is a failure to agree, the compensation question will be referred to arbitration and could take up to 18 months to resolve.

### West agrees on growth target of 5pc for 1978

From David Blake  
Paris, June 24

The major industrial nations of the West today agreed on the need to boost their flagging growth and set themselves the target of a 5 per cent increase in real terms in gross national product in 1978.

They also promised to bring forward detailed national targets for their own growth, and to impose trade restrictions, although the agreement was welcomed as a big step forward by many participants at the conference here of the 24 nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, there were still doubts about how effective the working together will be.

On other matters the German delegate made particularly forthright speech defending his government's anti-inflation policy, saying that they were taking all necessary measures and that too much worry was being expressed about the fairly slow rate of recovery in employment by 1980, as had been hoped.

The OECD area as a whole pledged itself to grow at an average rate of 4 per cent between 1975 and 1980, a target which cannot realistically be achieved.

The two pledges which matter in the final communiqué are that countries will not stop their currency going up in value if this is justified by underlying market forces—a reference to the widely-held belief that the yen, and, to a lesser extent, the Deutschmark, have been undervalued—and a promise that there will be targets set for growth in domestic demand for each country.

On other matters the ministers heard from Dr Johannes Witteveen, OECD managing director, that he now expected to raise about \$10,000m in the special support facility he is arranging for the International Monetary Fund.

The Saudi Arabians will give \$2,500m and there are firm commitments from other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries which should bring up the total OPEC contribution to \$3,800m.

Dr Witteveen thinks that more than double this with contributions from western nations and that the total will be enough to fund the needs of countries in trouble. He took a firm line on the need for nations in payments difficulties to take positive steps to get rid of their deficits, rather than rely on borrowed money.

Many people, however, felt that the amount raised was not enough for all the needs of the world, and the final communiqué contained a sentence which was interpreted as an attack by many ministers to the ratification of the \$25,000m OECD safety net.

It has been blocked in the United States Congress, and Mr Michael Blumenthal, Treasury Secretary, said it was unlikely that congressional leaders would allow it to go ahead unless the Witteveen view failed.

### NCB expansion costs jump by over £550m

Costs of the National Coal Board's plans to provide an extra 42 million tons of output by 1985 have soared to £3,710m from the £3,150m estimate in March 1976, Mr Alex Eagle, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

Costs of developing the Selby coalfield have risen by £40m from last August's estimate of £440m.

Sir Derek Edge, chairman of the NCB, warned the industry that it would have to solve its productivity problems if it was to meet the target.

### BNOC confident of selling £14m rig

Lord Kearon, chairman of the British National Oil Corporation, said yesterday that there had been a dozen inquiries from abroad for the £14m jack-up oil rig which the Corporation sold to the Clydebank yard of Marathon Shipbuilding.

In some cases, if there is a failure to agree, the compensation question will be referred to arbitration and could take up to 18 months to resolve.

### Bid by Rolls for Fodens cleared

Rolls-Royce Motors' bid for Fodens, the heavy lorry manufacturers, will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said yesterday.

Rolls-Royce on Thursday increased its paper bid by nearly £3m, valuing Fodens at £10.8m.

### How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Alfred Colloids	15p to 20p	Plessey	5p to 8p
Austin, E	6p to 10p	Racal Elect	2p to 2p 1/2
Beaverbrook	20p to 25p	Rand Mine Prop	7p to 10p
BP	18p to 27p	Renwick Grp	2p to 2p 1/2
Clayton Devand	9p to 10p	Sandeman, G	6p to 4p
Cip & Duffin	5p to 5p 1/2	Shelco	7p to 8p 1/2
Gomme Hides	20p to 21p	Simmonds Eng	11p to 14p
Highland	10p to 9p	UBM	5p to 5p 1/2
Libson	10p to 30p	Unilever	8p to 4p 1/2
Nugate Exptor	10p to 35p	Waddington, J	10p to 15p

THE POUND		Bank	
	Bank	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.60	1.55	
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25	
Belgium Fr	64.00	61.00	
Canada \$	1.85	1.80	
Denmark Kr	10.72	10.32	
Finland Mk	7.20	6.55	
France Fr	6.55	6.35	
Germany Dm	4.22	4.08	
Greece Dr	64.00	61.50	
Hongkong \$	8.40	7.95	
Japan Yn	145.00	142.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.45	4.35	
Norway Kr	9.42	9.15	
Portugal Esc	68.50	65.00	
S. Africa Rd	2.12	2.08	
Spain Pes	127.50	115.00	
Sweden Kr	7.11	7.05	
Switzerland Fr	4.45	4.35	
US \$	2.42	2.38	
Yugoslavia Dnr	32.25	32.25	

### On other pages

Bank Exchange Rates Table



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

BP leads late spurt

American buying of BP shares ahead of Monday's sale breathed some late life into a listless equity market and between 3 pm and the close the FT Index rose more than three points for a final figure of 449.6.

Though the long-awaited figures from John Brown were up to most market expectations, the shares eased a penny to 214p, while RACAL continued to be wanted on the strength of the previous day's figures, rising another 26p to 408p and up no less than 46p over the week.

The higher terms from Rolls Royce Motors and a monopolies clearance did little for Fodens, unchanged at 49p, while Dolan Packaging eased 2p to 173p after news that a Swedish group had obtained a controlling interest.

Dealers seem convinced that Powell Duffryn will come with a rights issue in the next week or so. Ever since Wednesday's results the market has buzzed with speculation of a cash raising exercise and over the past two days strong buying for the next account has raised the shares 7p for a close last night of 170p.

After a brief suspension, the merger plans had Reylor Parsons off 4p to 186p and Clarke Chapman better by 3p to 84p. The environmental problems affecting the Mesa Field left P & O 10p lower at 148p. The shares have slipped 8p over the week and there are also suggestions of a downgrading of production estimates.

A battle had been in prospect when it was learned earlier in the week that Canadian interests had raised their stake in the financial sector. Lloyds & Scottish held steady at 88p after the strength of the previous session and Arbutnot Latham gained 5p to 140p after Thursday's figures.

David Moti

Industrial unrest holding back the market

UK managers in a quiet American market. The market was again in a quiet American market. The market was again in a quiet American market.

at the Granville factory in North London, especially the involvement of Mr. Arthur Scargill, leader of the potentially volatile Yorkshire miners - was a particular cause of concern.

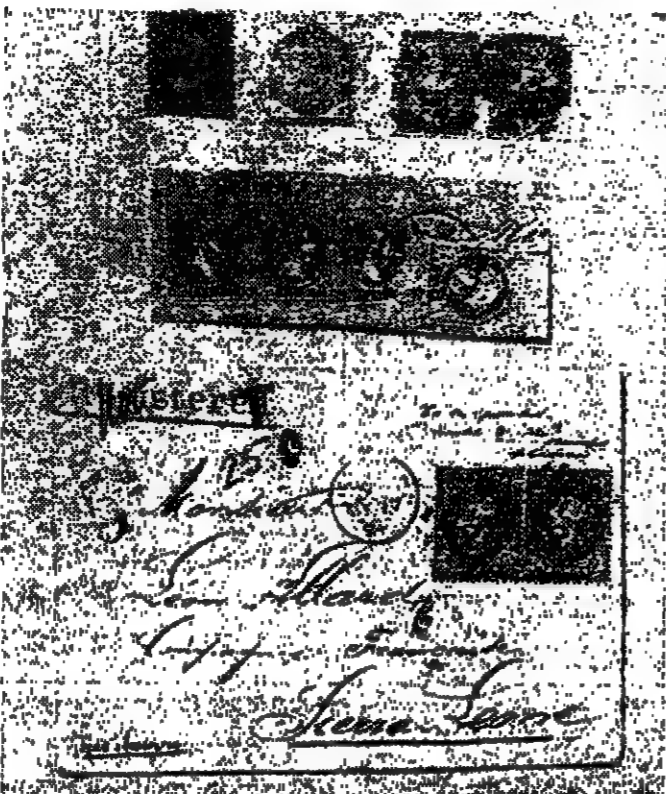
Table with 4 columns: Year's Year's high low Company, Movement, Comment. Rows include Beaverbrook, MK Refrigeration, Newmans Tubes, Powell Duffryn, JH Fenner, House of Fraser, Lee Cooper, P & O, Trafalgar House.

With so little genuine trade takeover speculative stocks continued to dominate proceedings. Two new names added to the takeover list were that old speculative favourite MK Refrigeration, up 51p to 174p after mining group Charter Consolidated had gained control with terms worth £12.7m, and Newmans Tubes which gained 61p to 164p on a bid from Ductile Steels.

Investments

King's equity investment

Bill Taylor - do you remember our mythical investment? It was a mythical investment, but it was a mythical investment.



Top (left to right) The penny stamp of Great Britain overprinted "Cyprus" and subsequently surcharged half-penny issued in 1881 comes from printing plate number 216. This item has the rare variety of the "A" of the word "Half-penny" omitted and is accompanied by a BPA certificate.

Interest

Dep options open ready for a rise in yields

Mr. I considered the of establishing a to provide maximum reasonable safety and of growth in the equity investment. I the conclusion that in the future, having fallen fast, were set to rise and so I adopted a defensive strategy.

Table with 4 columns: High Income Portfolio (1), Price, % at, Price now. Rows include Treasury 144%, British Leyland, 10% interest, 10% interest, 10% interest.

result of the oversupply of corporation stocks maturing in the first half of the next decade after issues from Sun-land, Stockport and Birmingham.

strong incentive to do so by the time I want to sell. Would I go quite so far out on a limb if I were establishing my defensive portfolio now? Yes, I think I would.

at 10.3 per cent (assuming basic rate at 3.5 per cent), it still compares well with the return available on any investment of comparable flexibility, so I shall leave my money there for the moment.

ion

dent allowances • Emigration • Excess Basic Rate

article some weeks ago dealt with a table on the income tax child allowance - 1977-78 with a footnote that the 1976-77 is continues to apply to all-time students and adult children. I have a number of letters more information on included in the two cate-

diploma or a teaching qualification; a course of post-graduate or post-diploma instruction; or any other course, being a course of a standard above general certificate of education (advanced level) or Scottish certificate of education (higher level).



and is it the same position if I choose to live in Jersey instead of any other tax haven? The Inland Revenue would say that the taxpayer's demand notes to the taxpayer's overseas residence, whatever the country or territory, in the hope that the taxpayer would pay up in the normal way.

Revenue, there is a brief explanation about it on the leaflet enclosed with the Notice of Coding. The point is that the tax tables automatically provide that each employee will get the first £6,000 (or £5,000 for 1976/77) slice of taxable income at the basic rate.

Saint Piran final above forecast

The enormous rise in first-half profits at Saint Piran Ltd must have prepared shareholders for record full-time results. Pre-tax profits, in fact, increased more than four-fold to £20.1m, against £461,000 last year. Yesterday the shares put on just one penny to 53p.

After record profits last year, Charringtons Industrial Holdings reports "appreciably better" figures in the opening weeks of the current year. Mr Rowland C. Hall, retiring chairman, gives a warning to shareholders in his annual report that the bulk of the group's profits are earned in the crucial final quarter and that it is thus impossible to make any firm predictions.

By Richard Allen small reduction in fixed assets from property disposal and net current assets increased £6m, mainly as the result of the £4m loan from Barclays Bank. The future of the group's Falkland Islands Co subsidiary, subject of much stock market speculation, has yet to be resolved. It more than doubled profits to £570,000 on the back of higher wool prices last year.

Briefly

£4.09m has been added to reserves.

BROKERS TO MERGE Kert Anderson Miller Stevenson and Parsons & Co, Glasgow stockbrokers, plan to merge on July 25, subject to permission of Stock Exchange Council. New company will be named Parsons & Co.

HOLYWOOD RUBBER As company is trading and operating exclusively overseas, it will not be subject to current dividend controls, Treasury confirms.

TARTAN McCALL/SEARS TMC, a Cornish Holdings subsidiary, has entered into agreement with Sears Ltd for sale of TMC wholly owned United States subsidiary Miss Erica for £1.4m. In addition sterling deposits of £365,000 by TMC and

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Big turnaround in process sector is key to John Brown's recovery

By Victor Felstead

John Brown, the engineering giant, has duly delivered the goods promised at half-time. Pre-tax profits soared from £1.7m to £10.9m—easily a record in the 12 months to March 31, compared with the board's interim forecast that they would "exceed £10m". Turnover was 27.4 per cent up at £214.7m.

As predicted in January, a total net dividend of 7.8p, or 12p gross, will be paid, against 2.5p net, or 3.8p gross, last time. A second interim of 5.2p net, or 8p gross, is declared and will be increased if there is any reduction in the rate of ACT. A total of 12p gross is the maximum allowed in a recovery situation.

Earnings per ordinary stock unit shot up from 3.3p to 42.4p, the dividend is covered 5.4 times, against 1.3 last year, and the return before tax, on stockholders' funds has jumped from 4.8 to 25.1 per cent.

The main improvement came in process engineering end construction. A break-down of profits, before tax and corporate interest and charges, shows that this sector made a profit of £4.1m, against 1976's £700,000 loss, on turnover up from £49.1m to £62.1m. Next best was machine tools, which boosted its contribution more than fivefold from £500,000 to £2.6m, a turnover slightly improved from £44.1m to £48.3m. Gas turbines and specialist fabrication's share

doubled from £1.3m to £2.7m on turnover up from £31.2m to £52.1m.

General engineering and miscellaneous rose from £1.3m to £2.4m on turnover which rose from £44m to £52.2m. Pre-tax profits this time round are after providing £2m to cover exceptional costs resulting from lack of orders for specialist fabrications at JBE Offshore.

With orders on hand at the year-end up from £134m to £176m, "an improved profit" is forecast for the current year. Bank borrowings were more than halved from £24m to £11.6m. Measles agreement has been reached to sell A.C. Wickman (Canada) for £2.3m. The shares slipped by a 1p yesterday to close at 214p.

## Electronic equipment sector halts Rediffusion

By Ashley Druker

Rising 10 per cent in the first-half, steady progress was the aim of Rediffusion for the full year to March 31. This resulted in only a marginal increase in pre-tax profit from £16.3m to £16.47m, on turnover raised £122m to £138.7m.

The small improvement in profit represents increased earnings from television and related business in the United Kingdom and a reduction in the interest charge from £2.26m to £1.65m. But this was offset by reduced contributions from the electronic capital equipment sector and from associated companies, down from £1.87m to £1.39m. Trading profit increased from £35.27m to £37.08m, but depreciation was heavier by £1.8m at £18.28m.

After tax up from £9.4m to £10.8m, the net fell from £6.88m to £5.7m. The tax charge is high because of losses by the television station in Hongkong and by some associated companies cannot be offset against other profits in the group. The loss attributable to minority interests more than doubled from £250,000 to £675,000, but with nil extraordinary items against the preceding year's £1.1m, the attributable was just over £300,000 better at the £6.37m. Earnings a share show a fall from 8.6p to 7.6p, and the year's gross dividend is 6.61p.

This television rental and electronics group, 56.6 per cent controlled by British Electric Traction, expected at half-time that the Rediffusion manufacturing operations, which apparently had problems with some less profitable contracts, would reverse the position with these by full time.

Meanwhile the dominant rental operations in the United Kingdom were still picking over comfortably after six months.

## Foreign Exchange

The pound charted a narrow course yesterday, close unchanged at \$1.797 against the dollar, with its effective exchange rate also unaltered at 61.6. Business remained very quiet in front of the weekend.

Comments on the economic and currency scene by various ministers at the Paris OECD conference were noted with interest by dealers, though no great market response occurred. The Bank of England took in a few dollars here and there, market men believed.

French francs strengthened to 4.9385 (4.9400) following the increase in pre-tax profit from £16.3m to £16.47m, on turnover raised £122m to £138.7m. The small improvement in profit represents increased earnings from television and related business in the United Kingdom and a reduction in the interest charge from £2.26m to £1.65m. But this was offset by reduced contributions from the electronic capital equipment sector and from associated companies, down from £1.87m to £1.39m. Trading profit increased from £35.27m to £37.08m, but depreciation was heavier by £1.8m at £18.28m.

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## International

## G Dynamics, Beech, talk merger

General Dynamics Corporation, the giant American aerospace telecommunications and electronics group of St. Louis, Missouri, could swallow Beech Aircraft Corporation if talks between them succeed.

Officials of both groups have held "very preliminary discussions" about a merger through an exchange of securities.

But they added: "These discussions have been so preliminary and so superficial that neither company is able to determine whether a merger would be either feasible or constructive for the two companies or their shareholders."

However, the talks are to go on. Beech said that the talks were disclosed in response to "speculative rumours". But it did not say who started the discussions.

Beech hopes to make record profits again this year. Aerospace has prospered for General Dynamics too. Among other things it is building five natural gas tankers for British Oil and early last year it agreed to shoulder their building costs.

## Bastogi sells most of Italcementi stake

Finance group Bastogi Finanziaria Spa has sold most of its interest in Italcementi Spa, the large cement concern, to form a new law that became effective Thursday midnight prohibiting interlocking share ownership.

Bastogi did not say to whom the interest was sold but had held 850,000 shares, or 10.6 per cent of the total. It announced that it had reduced its holding to the legal maximum of 2 per cent. Italcementi in turn controlled Italmobiliare, which owned 19.2 per cent of the Bastogi shares. It is not known whether Italmobiliare has sold its shares.

A report in the newspaper La Repubblica identified the buyer of the Italcementi shares as Finsal, a holding company controlled by financier Mr. Raffaele Ursini. No comment was immediately available.

Bastogi said that the sale took place Monday, and has taken a substantial loss on the shares, unless it made a private placing at substantially above market prices.

## Lafarge marks time

Paris—The figures of Lafarge SA this year are likely to be near those of 1976, Mr. Olivier Lecart, chairman, told the annual meeting. Last year the group made net attributable profits of Fr184.1m (130.5m) on a turnover of Fr6.01 billion against a 5.34 billion.

Mr. Lecart said their results in the first 1977 quarter were better but in the second quarter worse than planned.—Reuter.

## Second-half upswing pushes A Monk to peak

By Our Financial Staff

More than doubled second-half results lead to record profits in 1976-77 for Warrington-based A. Monk & Co., which is in civil engineering, building and reinforced concrete construction.

In the year to February 28, pre-tax profits more than doubled to a record £22.8m, against £1.1m, on turnover up from £52.2m to £65m.

Mainly responsible for this was the second half, when pre-tax profits climbed from £781,000 to £1.76m. In the first six months they increased from £324,000 to £519,000. The total gross dividend is going up from 6.5p to 7.25p, the maximum allowed.

Earnings per share jumped from 6.8p to 12.7p and shareholders are to receive a one-for-two scrip issue. Not surprisingly, the shares bounced up by 4p to 72p yesterday.

As good as the year's profits are, they do include interest which had soared from £59,000 to £346,000 and this was not included at half-time. Pre-tax profits hit a peak of £17.2m in 1975-76, but then slumped to £338,000 in the following 12 months. The board explained then that the basic reason for the setback was the impact of unprecedented increases in costs in carrying out contracts which were secured in the early part of 1973 on a firm-price basis.

Profits partly recovered to £1.1m in 1975-76. In its interim statement last December the board reported that current contracts in the United Kingdom were being carried out profitably and that the half-year had seen some improvement in settlements on completed contracts. Comparable results were looked for in the second half-year.

Gomme Holdings is holding negotiations which may lead to a bid. The G-Pan furniture manufacturer announced yesterday that it had received a "tentative approach which may or may not lead to an offer". But the company stressed that the approach had not been made by building materials group Marley, which holds 29.7 per cent of its equity. This was later reiterated by Marley.

The shares raced up by 20p to 71p where the group is capitalized at just under £10m. Assets, at the end of July, 1976, balance sheet, are shown at 75.2p net per share, but a buyer will have to recognise that profits for the six months to end January last improved only fractionally to £1.08m pre-tax and Mr. Harry Spörberg, Gomme chairman, has warned that the rate of order intake has subsequently slackened.

Lookers ahead and on record trail

Taking in three months' profits of subsidiaries P. Platts and Platts Agricultural Machinery Exports, pre-tax profits of Lookers jumped from £265,000 to £607,000 in the half-year to March 31. Turnover was up from £13.3m to £20.62m. For the full year, a record trading profit is expected.

Vaux battles well against the odds

A colourful report, or rather two if you include the one for workers, comes from bid chestnut Vaux Breweries, strong in the North-east, where profits are harder to earn than down South. So the figures are good, but not as colourful as the reports. Sales rose in the year to April 30 from £56.55m to £62.7m, enough to raise pre-tax

## Gomme takeover approach

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## Spot Position of Sterling

New York: Sterling closed at \$1.797, unchanged from \$1.797, against the dollar, with its effective exchange rate also unaltered at 61.6. Business remained very quiet in front of the weekend.

Comments on the economic and currency scene by various ministers at the Paris OECD conference were noted with interest by dealers, though no great market response occurred. The Bank of England took in a few dollars here and there, market men believed.

French francs strengthened to 4.9385 (4.9400) following the increase in pre-tax profit from £16.3m to £16.47m, on turnover raised £122m to £138.7m. The small improvement in profit represents increased earnings from television and related business in the United Kingdom and a reduction in the interest charge from £2.26m to £1.65m. But this was offset by reduced contributions from the electronic capital equipment sector and from associated companies, down from £1.87m to £1.39m. Trading profit increased from £35.27m to £37.08m, but depreciation was heavier by £1.8m at £18.28m.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, July 8. \$ Contango Day, July 11. Settlement Day, July 15.  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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STOCKS									
Symbol	Price	Change	Volume	Symbol	Price	Change	Volume	Symbol	Price
AA	10.00	0.00	100	AA	10.00	0.00	100	AA	10.00
AB	10.00	0.00	100	AB	10.00	0.00	100	AB	10.00
AC	10.00	0.00	100	AC	10.00	0.00	100	AC	10.00
AD	10.00	0.00	100	AD	10.00	0.00	100	AD	10.00
AE	10.00	0.00	100	AE	10.00	0.00	100	AE	10.00
AF	10.00	0.00	100	AF	10.00	0.00	100	AF	10.00
AG	10.00	0.00	100	AG	10.00	0.00	100	AG	10.00
AH	10.00	0.00	100	AH	10.00	0.00	100	AH	10.00
AI	10.00	0.00	100	AI	10.00	0.00	100	AI	10.00
AJ	10.00	0.00	100	AJ	10.00	0.00	100	AJ	10.00
AK	10.00	0.00	100	AK	10.00	0.00	100	AK	10.00
AL	10.00	0.00	100	AL	10.00	0.00	100	AL	10.00
AM	10.00	0.00	100	AM	10.00	0.00	100	AM	10.00
AN	10.00	0.00	100	AN	10.00	0.00	100	AN	10.00
AO	10.00	0.00	100	AO	10.00	0.00	100	AO	10.00
AP	10.00	0.00	100	AP	10.00	0.00	100	AP	10.00
AP	10.00	0.00	100	AP	10.00	0.00	100	AP	10.00
AR	10.00	0.00	100	AR	10.00	0.00	100	AR	10.00
AS	10.00	0.00	100	AS	10.00	0.00	100	AS	10.00
AT	10.00	0.00	100	AT	10.00	0.00	100	AT	10.00
AV	10.00	0.00	100	AV	10.00	0.00	100	AV	10.00
AW	10.00	0.00	100	AW	10.00	0.00	100	AW	10.00
AX	10.00	0.00	100	AX	10.00	0.00	100	AX	10.00
AY	10.00	0.00	100	AY	10.00	0.00	100	AY	10.00
AZ	10.00	0.00	100	AZ	10.00	0.00	100	AZ	10.00
BA	10.00	0.00	100	BA	10.00	0.00	100	BA	10.00
BB	10.00	0.00	100	BB	10.00	0.00	100	BB	10.00
BC	10.00	0.00	100	BC	10.00	0.00	100	BC	10.00
BD	10.00	0.00	100	BD	10.00	0.00	100	BD	10.00
BE	10.00	0.00	100	BE	10.00	0.00	100	BE	10.00
BF	10.00	0.00	100	BF	10.00	0.00	100	BF	10.00
BG	10.00	0.00	100	BG	10.00	0.00	100	BG	10.00
BH	10.00	0.00	100	BH	10.00	0.00	100	BH	10.00
BI	10.00	0.00	100	BI	10.00	0.00	100	BI	10.00
BJ	10.00	0.00	100	BJ	10.00	0.00	100	BJ	10.00
BK	10.00	0.00	100	BK	10.00	0.00	100	BK	10.00
BL	10.00	0.00	100	BL	10.00	0.00	100	BL	10.00
BM	10.00	0.00	100	BM	10.00	0.00	100	BM	10.00
BN	10.00	0.00	100	BN	10.00	0.00	100	BN	10.00
BO	10.00	0.00	100	BO	10.00	0.00	100	BO	10.00
BP	10.00	0.00	100	BP	10.00	0.00	100	BP	10.00
BQ	10.00	0.00	100	BQ	10.00	0.00	100	BQ	10.00
BR	10.00	0.00	100	BR	10.00	0.00	100	BR	10.00
BS	10.00	0.00	100	BS	10.00	0.00	100	BS	10.00
BT	10.00	0.00	100	BT	10.00	0.00	100	BT	10.00
BU	10.00	0.00	100	BU	10.00	0.00	100	BU	10.00
BV	10.00	0.00	100	BV	10.00	0.00	100	BV	10.00
BW	10.00	0.00	100	BW	10.00	0.00	100	BW	10.00
BX	10.00	0.00	100	BX	10.00	0.00	100	BX	10.00
BY	10.00	0.00	100	BY	10.00	0.00	100	BY	10.00
BZ	10.00	0.00	100	BZ	10.00	0.00	100	BZ	10.00
CA	10.00	0.00	100	CA	10.00	0.00	100	CA	10.00
CB	10.00	0.00	100	CB	10.00	0.00	100	CB	10.00
CC	10.00	0.00	100	CC	10.00	0.00	100	CC	10.00
CD	10.00	0.00	100	CD	10.00	0.00	100	CD	10.00
CE	10.00	0.00	100	CE	10.00	0.00	100	CE	10.00
CF	10.00	0.00	100	CF	10.00	0.00	100	CF	10.00
CG	10.00	0.00	100	CG	10.00	0.00	100	CG	10.00
CH	10.00	0.00	100	CH	10.00	0.00	100	CH	10.00
CI	10.00	0.00	100	CI	10.00	0.00	100	CI	10.00
CJ	10.00	0.00	100	CJ	10.00	0.00	100	CJ	10.00
CK	10.00	0.00	100	CK	10.00	0.00	100	CK	10.00
CL	10.00	0.00	100	CL	10.00	0.00	100	CL	10.00
CM	10.00	0.00	100	CM	10.00	0.00	100	CM	10.00
CN	10.00	0.00	100	CN	10.00	0.00	100	CN	10.00
CO	10.00	0.00	100	CO	10.00	0.00	100	CO	10.00
CP	10.00	0.00	100	CP	10.00	0.00	100	CP	10.00
CQ	10.00	0.00	100	CQ	10.00	0.00	100	CQ	10.00
CR	10.00	0.00	100	CR	10.00	0.00	100	CR	10.00
CS	10.00	0.00	100	CS	10.00	0.00	100	CS	10.00
CT	10.00	0.00	100	CT	10.00	0.00	100	CT	10.00
CU	10.00	0.00	100	CU	10.00	0.00	100	CU	10.00
CV	10.00	0.00	100	CV	10.00	0.00	100	CV	10.00
CW	10.00	0.00	100	CW	10.00	0.00	100	CW	10.00
CX	10.00	0.00	100	CX	10.00	0.00	100	CX	10.00
CY	10.00	0.00	100	CY	10.00	0.00	100	CY	10.00
CZ	10.00	0.00	100	CZ	10.00	0.00	100	CZ	10.00
DA	10.00	0.00	100	DA	10.00	0.00	100	DA	10.00
DB	10.00	0.00	100	DB	10.00	0.00	100	DB	10.00
DC	10.00	0.00	100	DC	10.00	0.00	100	DC	10.00
DD	10.00	0.00	100	DD	10.00	0.00	100	DD	10.00
DE	10.00	0.00	100	DE	10.00	0.00	100	DE	10.00
DF	10.00	0.00	100	DF	10.00	0.00	100	DF	10.00
DG	10.00	0.00	100	DG	10.00	0.00	100	DG	10.00
DH	10.00	0.00	100	DH	10.00	0.00	100	DH	10.00
DI	10.00	0.00	100	DI	10.00	0.00	100	DI	10.00
DJ	10.00	0.00	100	DJ	10.00	0.00	100	DJ	10.00
DK	10.00	0.00	100	DK	10.00	0.00	100	DK	10.00
DL	10.00	0.00	100	DL	10.00	0.00	100	DL	10.00
DM	10.00	0.00	100	DM	10.00	0.00	100	DM	10.00
DN	10.00	0.00	100	DN	10.00	0.00	100	DN	10.00
DO	10.00	0.00	100	DO	10.00	0.00	100	DO	10.00
DP	10.00	0.00	100	DP	10.00	0.00	100	DP	10.00
DQ	10.00	0.00	100	DQ	10.00	0.00	100	DQ	10.00
DR	10.00	0.00	100	DR	10.00	0.00	100	DR	10.00
DS	10.00	0.00	100	DS	10.00	0.00	100	DS	10.00
DT	10.00	0.00	100	DT	10.00	0.00	100	DT	10.00
DU	10.00	0.00	100	DU	10.00	0.00	100	DU	10.00
DV	10.00	0.00	100	DV	10.00	0.00	100	DV	10.00
DW	10.00	0.00	100	DW	10.00	0.00	100	DW	10.00
DX	10.00	0.00	100	DX	10.00	0.00	100	DX	10.00
DY	10.00	0.00	100	DY	10.00	0.00	100	DY	10.00
DZ	10.00	0.00	100	DZ	10.00	0.00	100	DZ	10.00
EA	10.00	0.00	100	EA	10.00	0.00	100	EA	10.00
EB	10.00	0.00	100	EB	10.00	0.00	100	EB	10.00
EC	10.00	0.00	100	EC	10.00	0.00	100	EC	10.00
ED	10.00	0.00	100	ED	10.00	0.00	100	ED	10.00
EE	10.00	0.00	100	EE	10.00	0.00	100	EE	10.00
EF	10.00	0.00	100	EF	10.00	0.00	100	EF	10.00
EG	10.00	0.00	100	EG	10.00	0.00	100	EG	10.00
EH	10.00	0.00	100	EH	10.00	0.00	100	EH	10.00
EI	10.00	0.00	100	EI	10.00	0.00	100	EI	10.00
EJ	10.00	0.00	100	EJ	10.00	0.00	100	EJ	10.00
EK	10.00	0.00	100	EK	10.00	0.00	100	EK	10.00
EL	10.00	0.00	100	EL	10.00	0.00	100	EL	10.00
EM	10.00	0.00	100	EM	10.00	0.00	100	EM	10.00
EN	10.00	0.00	100	EN	10.00	0.00	100	EN	10.00
EO	10.00	0.00	100	EO	10.00	0.00	100	EO	10.00
EP	10.00	0.00	100	EP	10.00	0.00	100	EP	10.00
EQ	10.00	0.00	100	EQ	10.00	0.00	100	EQ	10.00
ER	10.00	0.00	100	ER	10.00	0.00	100	ER	10.00
ES	10.00	0.00	100	ES	10.00	0.00	100	ES	10.00
ET	10.00	0.00	100	ET	10.00	0.00	100	ET	10.00
EU	10.00	0.00	100	EU	10.00	0.00	100	EU	10.00
EV	10.00	0.00	100	EV	10.00	0.00	100	EV	10.00
EW	10.00	0.00	100	EW	10.00	0.00	100	EW	10.00
EX	10.00	0.00	100	EX	10.00	0.00	100	EX	10.00
EY	10.00	0.00	100	EY	10.00	0.00	100	EY	10.00
EZ	10.00	0.00	100	EZ	10.00	0.00	100	EZ	10.00
FA	10.00	0.00	100	FA	10.00	0.00	100	FA	10.00
FB	10.00	0.00	100	FB	10.00	0.00	100	FB	10.00
FC	10.00	0.00	100	FC	10.00	0.00	100	FC	10.00
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FE	10.00	0.00	100	FE	10.00	0.00	100	FE	10.00
FF	10.00	0.00	100	FF	10.00	0.00	100	FF	10.00
FG	10.00	0.00	100	FG	10.00	0.00	100	FG	10.00
FH	10.00	0.00	100	FH	10.00	0.00	100	FH	10.00
FI	10.00	0.00	100	FI	10.00	0.00	100	FI	10.00
FJ	10.00	0.00	100	FJ	10.00	0.00	100	FJ	10.00
FK	10.00	0.00	100	FK	10.00	0.00	100	FK	10.00
FL	10.00	0.00	100	FL	10.00	0.00	100	FL	10.00
FM	10.00	0.00	100	FM	10.00	0.00	100	FM	10.00
FN	10.00	0.00	100	FN	10.00	0.00	100</		



Weekend

# SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black



very clear and dazzling crystals from Cumbria Crystal into the 17th and 18th century designs. The range is based entirely on the inspired and developed soon after the discovery of the clarity and strength of glass made from lead and a bear a combination of British skills, the blending of the fluted diamond or hollow cuts so demand in the Victorian period. It is making no concession to cost, going to the purity of design and of cutting, and as a result a great many customers even in stationary times.

The Loving Cup is an elegant and romantic pattern at £33.45. The Ulswater large goblet, Rydale cut and holding 9 fluid ounces, is £11.80. The sturdy, olden style rumbler is the Silverdale cut, holds 13 ounces and costs £11.65. The very attractive Grasmere 6½-ounce claret glass is a joy to hold at £11.65. When you think of the prices of ordinary glasses, the cost for hand-cut crystal is not as prohibitive as it might at first appear.

You can also find Cumbria at Thos Goode of 19 South Audley Street, London, W1. Out of town stockists are coming in with orders and your nearest can be identified by Cumbria Crystal, Lightburn Road, Ulverston LA12 0DA, Cumbria (Ulverston 54400). Send for an illustrated leaflet.



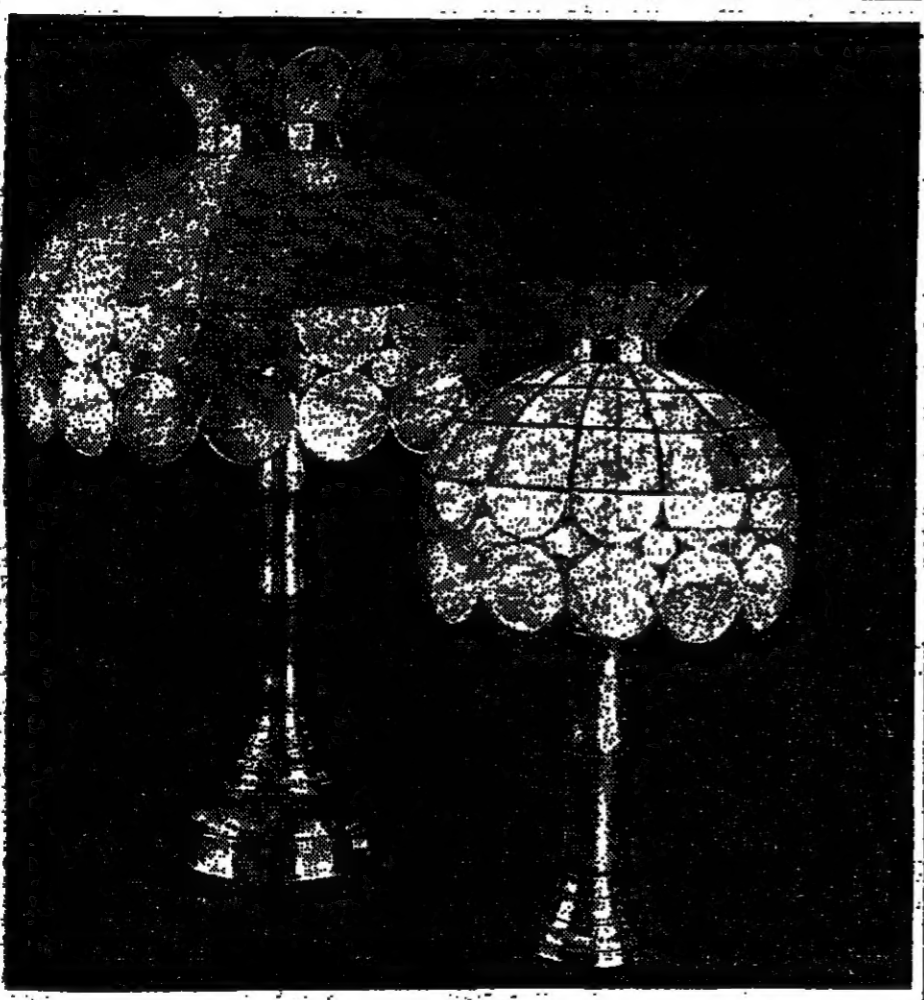
This graceful and charming claret set is the latest addition to the Webb Corbett range of full lead crystal—hand engraved, of course, as the price indicates. The jug is £280 and holds 30 fluid ounces but can be engraved with initials or monograms at no extra charge. The six glasses are £39.95 the set or £6.65 each and I hope that you can see the fine, delicate tracery of the intricate cutting. Stockists and other details on application from Ann Linnson, Royal Doulton Tableware, PO Box 106, London Road, Stoke on Trent ST4 7QD. This is crystal with a difference because the cutting is so fine, so complicated, so intricate that the result is of a pale, shadowy crystal which looks a little as though it had been photographed through a gauze. Very unusual, very fairylike, very skilfully cut and quite gossamer-pretty yet relatively sturdy with wide, sensible bases for the curving goblets.

Webb Corbett, of the Royal Doulton group, also makes some very low-priced crystal, like whisky rumblers, at £2.55 each, and so forth. All are hand cut and blown individually and then subjected to very stiff inspection to ensure continuing high standards. A lovely pint crystal tankard is £6.65 and a half-pint is £5. Father's Day?



Sir Arthur Bryan has admitted his love of bone china for tableware and decorative pieces—as chairman of Wedgwood and after so many years with the company, he would have to feel like that or give himself the sack, wouldn't he? But he was amazed to see it formed into such imaginative sculptural shapes as the ceramic sculptures now on show at the Crafts Advisory Centre, Waterloo Place (just off the Mall), London, SW1. Since the exhibition closes on June 30 you have little time left to see what so delighted him, these superb sculptures which are original, well designed, and beautifully hand crafted.

They are the work of Glenys Barton, whose individual ideas challenged the Wedgwood production team, for bone china is not an easy or malleable material. But they rose to the occasion and produced, with their traditional skills, modern work of great precision and mechanical finish. This head with tiny relief figures on the inside profiles is only one of a great many original ideas. Cast in bone china, it is unglazed, hand-polished and is one of a limited edition of four pieces. Glenys Barton may have started a whole new creative line for Wedgwood of Barlaston, Staffs.



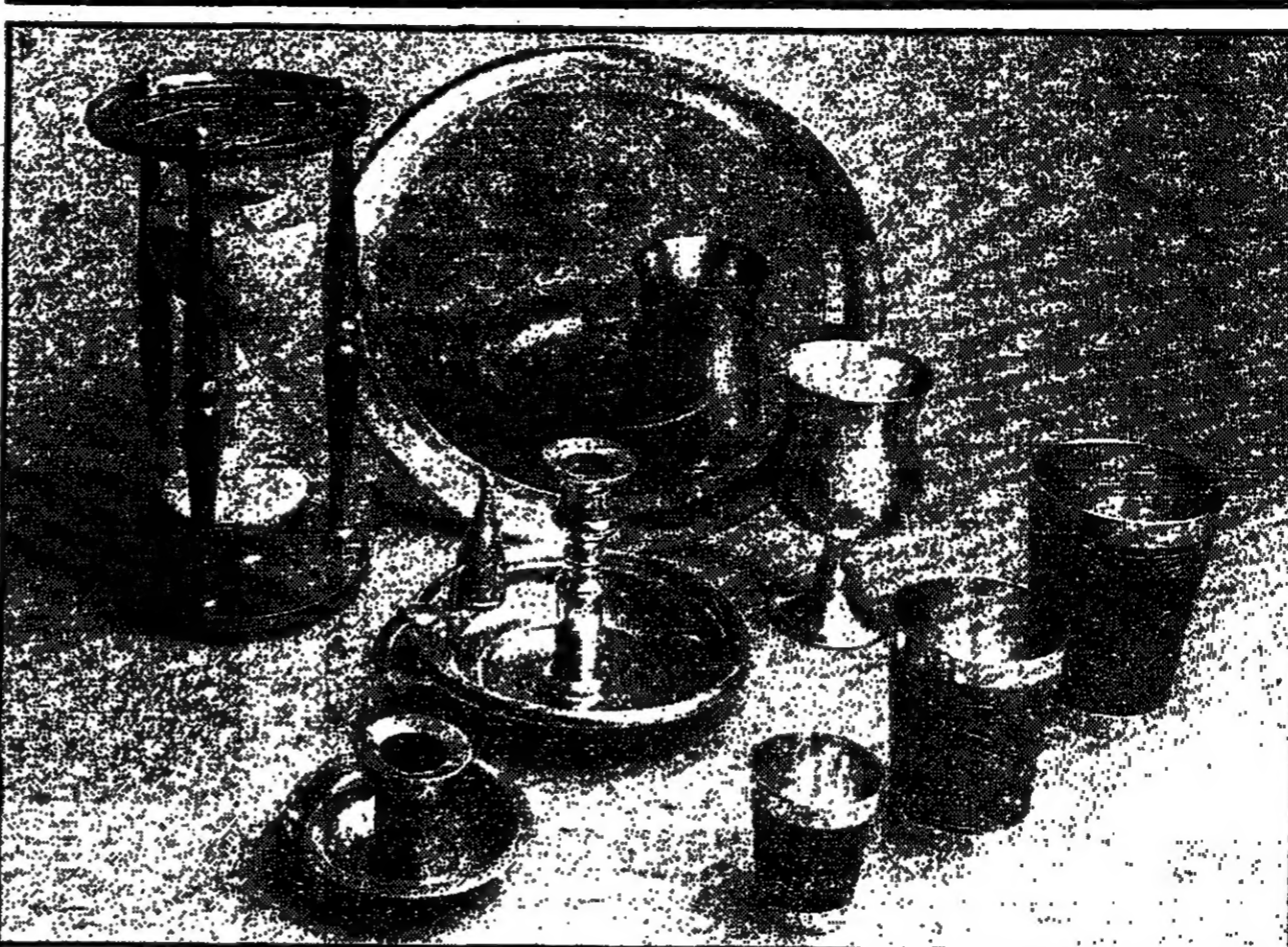
like pewter is one of the oldest materials and, like pewter, it has proved as time goes by. These lamps from Thailand, with natural resins from the Philippine Islands, the lustre and appeal of natural and both will last for ever—the lamp is gently washed.

is the only word for the larger of about 31 inches tall with the wiring about 19 inches across at the base—sizes have to be approximated—handmade things but you will find difference between one lamp and the smaller one is just plain pretty, despite the apparently small as dainty as a frilled chintz bedside light. It is about 24 inches by some 12 inches at the widest shade. Buy them by mail from 2 Timberwharf Road, London E1 8JZ (01-802 2368).

e unusual and solid. Both give

good light and look equally well with low bulbs if soft lights are your preference. They come to you by mail order, well packed against damage, and I think you will be delighted with them. You can preview them at 75 Tottenham Court Road, next door to Goodge Street station, when you are in London.

For myself, I would want a brass knob instead of the plastic shade-retaining knob which is part of the standard model but my local brass shop, Locks and Handles, which is the best I know and certainly with the best prices, tell me that such knobs are not difficult to order. I must confess that the shades hide the plastic knobs but I mention it for the fastidious. I only wish I could show you the lamps in colour in all the beauty of burnished bronze. Keep them shining high with Duraglit. The taller one is £49.50 and is available now. The shorter one at £26.50 will be available in September and can be reserved.



A few months ago I was enthusing about The Times special Jubilee offer of a pewter plate. Many people may be interested in other items in pewter, so we have photographed a selection available at The Pewter Centre in London. Leaflets on any of the different ranges on sale there can be sent to anyone and mail order service is efficient though not always fast because many of the pieces are made to special order.

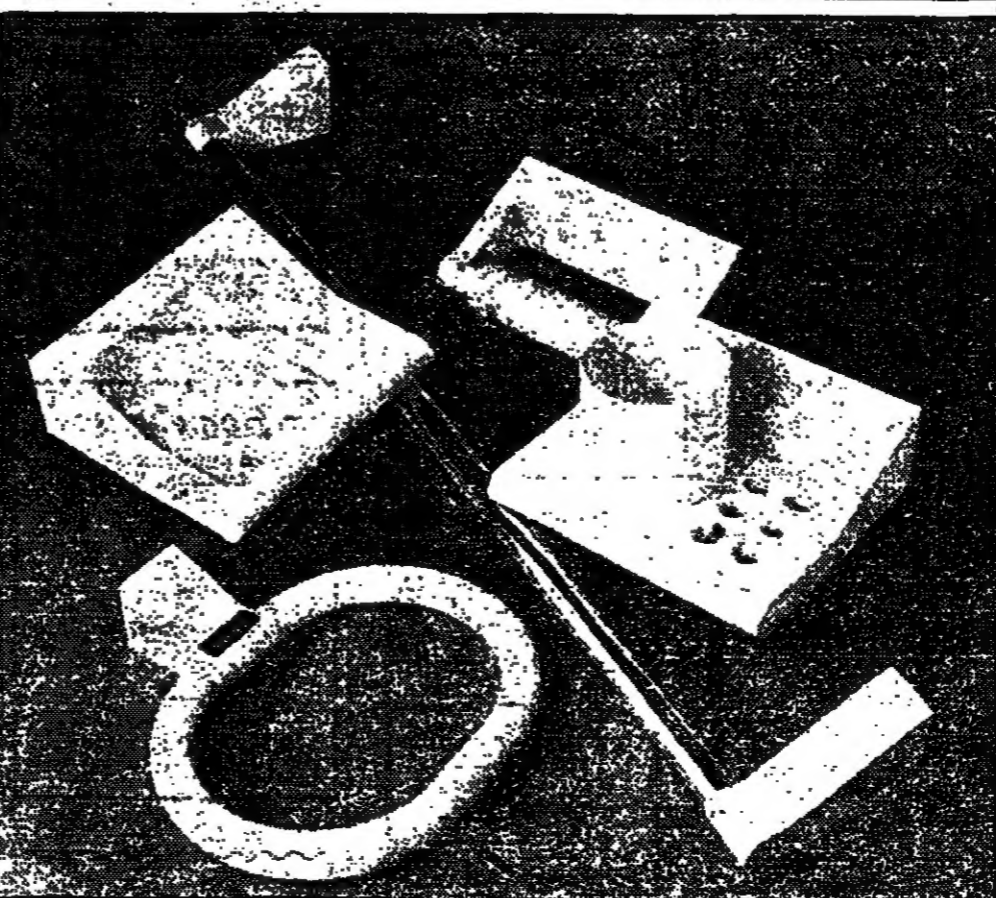
Some are spun rather than cast, which accounts for price differences. They look superb, whether polished, in satin or in duller finish, but they are spun so that handcraft-lovers can

examine the "antique" ranges or the reproduction styles. By antique, I do not mean that the pieces are old, because pewter has changed so much in recent years, but the moulds are antique.

The traditional goblet is £7.15 for the 7 fluid ounces size. The beakers, small, medium and large, are £5.75, £9.85, and £13.85. The candlestick with snuffer is £12.95 and the simpler, granny candlestick is £6.50. The hour glass is a lovely thing at £30 while the glass-bottomed pewter-rimmed tray is £17.50 for the 14-inch diameter or £12.50 for the 10-inch.

There is a host of other things. I fell for thimbles in small, medium and large sizes inscribed with the motto "Just

a thimbleful" which is fun when you are offering a pretty good swig even from the small size. The thimble beakers are amusing and attractive but there are more beakers with classic decoration around the part held by the hand so that the smooth polished parts are kept free from finger marks. There are also some really charming little wineglasses decorated with the same pattern and six on a matching tray look irresistible. The Pewter Centre is at 87 Abingdon Road, London, W8 (01-373 7025). It may not be known to some that this shop was the first shop opened by Biba and that many pilgrims of the Biba era come to see the starting place for the fashion designer who so translated the sixties.

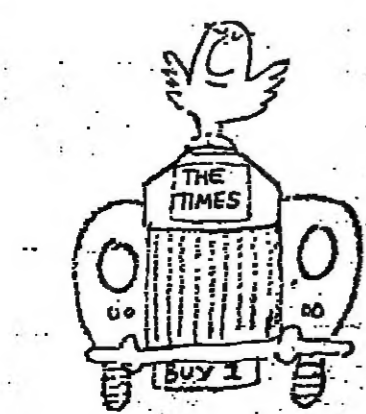


Always a romantic, I love to send and receive unusual cards—for one thing they save writing long letters when one is busy and for another they can delight other people more than letters usually do.

Athena International, that company which reproduces so many wonderful old or new paintings and posters at knockdown prices for such excellent printing, has just published Blue Mountain cards, designed and composed by a young American couple called Susan and Stephen Schurz (not to be confused with the Schultz of cartoon fame).

Susan composes the poetic messages while Stephen illustrates the thoughts. There are 73 different poetry cards altogether, including quotations from Emerson, St Exupéry, Thoreau, Van Gogh, Walt Whitman, Helen Keller and Goethe. The cards sell with matching envelopes.

Aspall Cyder which I wrote about last week, is not as I thought, non-alcoholic, but 8 per cent proof, and not to be confused with Aspall's non-alcoholic apple juice. I hope my mistake has not led anyone who is giving up drink to stray from the path of sobriety.



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Crayonne is a company which spent a lot on design, resulting in large sales which in turn enabled them to keep prices low and stable. The designs are by Conran Associates and clear proof that it is as easy to produce good design at low prices as at high ones.

Crayonne 2 is a new bathroom range with rather more compactness and angularity than the familiar rounded designs of yore, yet with enough of curves for comfort and pleasure—kind of Twiggy of bathroom accessories.

There is a mirror at around £6.50 and a shelf at £2.75. A neat beaker

nesting on a toothbrush holder at a mere £1.95. The toilet brush and container is £3.50 while the roller roll holder is £1.35. A towel ring is £1.35 while the long towel rail is £2.75 and the very smart soap dish is also £1.35. You can buy a tissue box at £1.35, a nail brush (that's a neat thought as they are usually so garish) at 95p, and a toilet stool with cork lid for £7.50. All in white or in white, all simple, all practical but you can also buy Crayonne 2 in beige, a kind of sandy tint, and in a dark, luxurious, brown—my own preference is very much the white.

The range is available at all John Lewis branches, Dingles in south-west England and Arncliffe in Scotland. Other stockists from Crayonne 2, 81 Windmill Road, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex. Large and small Crayonne clocks are available next month from Boots and Timorby Whites in brown, white, ivory and red. They have Swiss movements which run for a year on one C11 battery—guaranteed for the first full year too. Made of shatterproof thermoplastic material, they can be hung with only one screw, and have easy-to-read numerals too. About £8.70 to £9.70.

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